

MEASURING SOCIAL CONNECTEDNESS IN OECD COUNTRIES – A SCOPING REVIEW

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Abstract

Social connections refer to the ways that people interact with and relate to one another. Their role in shaping well-being is increasingly recognised by government, alongside an understanding of the role public policy plays in creating the structures that promote or hinder connectedness. To improve the evidence base on this emerging policy priority and lay the groundwork for full measurement recommendations, this paper reviews a selection of official surveys fielded in OECD countries to understand patterns in data collection, establish priority areas for harmonisation, and create an inventory of available measures. The results are encouraging, in that all countries measure social connections. Yet challenges remain: (1) despite policy attention, loneliness is included in fewer than half of surveys, (2) there is little convergence in the actual indicators used to measure concepts like “loneliness”, “social support” or “frequency of socialising”, and (3) survey frequency, particularly for time use, could be improved.

JEL Classification: I31, I12, C83

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Résumé

Les liens sociaux font référence à la manière dont les gens interagissent et sont en relation les uns avec les autres. Les pouvoirs publics reconnaissent de plus en plus leur rôle dans l'évolution du bien-être et comprennent le rôle que jouent les politiques publiques dans la création de structures qui favorisent ou entravent la connectivité. Afin d'améliorer la base de données sur cette nouvelle priorité politique et de jeter les bases de recommandations complètes en matière de mesure, ce document examine une sélection d'enquêtes officielles menées dans les pays de l'OCDE afin de comprendre les modèles de collecte de données, d'établir les domaines prioritaires d'harmonisation et de créer un inventaire des mesures disponibles. Les résultats sont encourageants, dans la mesure où tous les pays mesurent les liens sociaux. Cependant, des défis subsistent : (1) malgré l'attention portée par les politiques, la solitude est incluse dans moins de la moitié des enquêtes, (2) il y a peu de convergence dans les indicateurs utilisés pour mesurer des concepts tels que la « solitude », le « soutien social » ou la « fréquence des relations sociales », et (3) la fréquence des enquêtes, en particulier pour l'emploi du temps, pourrait être améliorée.

1. Why social connections matter

Humans are inherently social creatures. The time people spend together, the activities they engage in with one another, and the quality and diversity of their relationships play an important role in determining overall health, happiness and well-being. Their importance is recognised in the OECD's well-being work, where social connections has been a standalone domain of the OECD Well-being Framework since its creation in 2011 (Figure 1.1). There is ample evidence illustrating the harmful impacts of social isolation and loneliness not only on physical and mental health (OECD, 2023^[1]; Holt-Lunstad et al., 2015^[2]; Cacioppo et al., 2006^[3]), but also on labour market, economic and educational outcomes (Matthews et al., 2019^[4]; Morrish, Mujica-Mota and Medina-Lara, 2022^[5]; Rueger, Malecki and Demaray, 2010^[6]); Loneliness may also be associated with holding authoritarian political views and greater susceptibility to conspiracy theories (Neu et al., 2023^[7]). At the same time, good social relationships can foster health, creativity, self-esteem, job satisfaction, cooperative behaviours and even encourage social mobility and crime reduction (Amati et al., 2018^[8]; Patel and Plowman, 2022^[9]; Chetty et al., 2022^[10]; Stuart and Taylor, 2021^[11]); furthermore, strong social networks and community bonds can foster resilience, and quicker recovery times, in the face of climate and other disasters (Office of the U.S. Surgeon General, 2023^[12]).

These relationships show the societal toll of loneliness and isolation, and indeed efforts to quantify the costs have grown in recent years. Various estimates for different national contexts range from USD 400 billion a year to the U.S. economy (Cigna, 2020^[13]; CDC, 2023^[14]), to 1.2% of annual GDP in Spain (Rodríguez, Castiñeira and Rodríguez-Míguez, 2023^[15]), and GBP 2 billion per year for employers in the United Kingdom (New Economics Foundation, 2017^[16]). While social isolation among elderly people had already been a growing concern before 2020, social distancing and containment measures during the COVID-19 pandemic led to spikes in reported loneliness for all age groups, including youth (OECD, 2021^[17]). The pervasiveness of social media use and digital communications technology – and conflicting evidence on the way these affect (especially young) people's well-being, connections and relationship formation – is also drawing increased attention from families, communities and policy makers (Aarts, Peek and Wouters, 2015^[18]; Office of the U.S. Surgeon General, 2023^[19]; Barbosa Neves et al., 2019^[20]). As such, social connectedness is rapidly moving beyond “just” a personal topic, to one indicative of overall societal health and well-being. There is growing consensus that governments are already influencing social relationships through the creation of structures that can promote, or hinder, how people connect with each other, and increasing recognition that policy makers may have a direct interest in promoting healthy social connections (Office of the U.S. Surgeon General, 2023^[12]; WHO, 2023^[21]).

A better evidence base is needed to support strategy formulation for this emerging priority, and to understand how societal shifts and megatrends such as digitalisation, climate change and population ageing are affecting connectedness. This necessitates clear and shared definitions of which aspects of social connections matter the most for well-being (and are policy amenable), as well as corresponding robust measures to monitor trends and inequalities in social connectedness, and to evaluate the success of policy interventions. This working paper takes a first step in moving the measurement agenda forward by mapping a selection of household surveys conducted by national statistical offices across OECD countries, along with a few important international surveys, to better understand how data producers are currently measuring social connections and to establish priority areas for further harmonisation efforts (see Box 1.1 for definitions of key terms used throughout).

Box 1.1. Key terms and definitions used in this working paper

The literature on social connectedness is vast, and different stakeholders use wide-ranging and often overlapping terms. To clarify the discussion, this working paper uses the following definitions for the most commonly used core concepts:

- **Social connections:** is an umbrella term that encompasses the many ways that people interact with and relate to one another. It includes both the quantity and quality of time spent with others, and how much support people feel they have.
- **Social network:** refers to *how many* people an individual interacts with, and *who* these people are.
- **Social support:** is the actual or perceived support – both material and non-material (i.e., social-emotional) – provided by interpersonal relationships.
- **Loneliness:** is a *subjective* experience that results from an individual's perception of being undesirably isolated, or from feeling that their needs are not being met in their relationships with others.
- **Social isolation:** refers to *objective* conditions, such as spending little time with others, infrequently engaging in social interactions, and/or having a small social network.

On the latter two definitions, the important distinction to note is that one can be socially isolated without feeling lonely (i.e., spend time alone without being lonely), and conversely, feel lonely without being socially isolated (i.e., feel lonely in a room full of people, feel lonely in a relationship).

Additional aspects of social connectedness are touched on in the conceptual framework described in greater detail in Figure 2.2.

Sources: (OECD, 2020^[22]; Holt-Lunstad, 2022^[23]; Office of the U.S. Surgeon General, 2023^[12]).

The first section of this working paper provides an overview of recent policy developments and outlines existing OECD work in defining and collating internationally comparable data on social connectedness. The second section establishes social connections as a multidimensional construct and introduces a conceptual framework that classifies available measures into domains of structure, function, quality and community connectedness. The third section assesses key patterns and gaps in current official measurement practice, and its annex presents a comprehensive overview of all measures included in the scoping exercise, to provide an inventory of illustrative examples for interested data producers. The last, brief, section concludes by outlining steps for possible future work, including the development of full measurement recommendations in the field of social connectedness.

The results of this exercise are on the one hand encouraging, in that all OECD countries are measuring social connections, but there is work to be done in improving harmonisation.

- First, despite its growing importance in policy conversations, **loneliness is far less likely to be measured than other aspects of social connections**. Questions on self-reported loneliness are included in 39% of national surveys considered, a smaller percentage than the share of surveys containing questions on, for example, perceived social support (67%) or time spent with others (76%).
- Yet the fact that two-thirds of surveys include a question on social support, for example, does not mean that these measurement approaches are harmonised. Indeed, within each conceptual area current practice is wide-ranging in terms of question phrasing, answer options, recall period, and so on – in general, there is a **lack of harmonisation**.

- Additionally, the **type of survey vehicle influences the breadth and depth of information** on social connectedness. General social surveys tend to include a diversity of *types* of questions on social connections, while thematic surveys are able to devote space for a greater number of indicators allowing for a more in-depth investigation. Time use surveys, on the other hand, include indicators on how people spend their time and with whom; integrating questions on affective states or emotions experienced during each activity would create a rich source of information on not just the quantity but also the quality of social interactions.
- Currently, of the surveys considered **around one-third are fielded annually** – a promising finding – however a further third are fielded every 2-5 years, and the remainder only irregularly. Time use surveys in particular are not conducted regularly across OECD countries. Moving a larger number of official data collections on social connectedness to an annual timeline, at least for a subset of priority indicators, would facilitate greater use of these data by policy makers.
- Lastly, this exercise highlights how **understanding the impact of digitalisation** on social connections will **continue to grow in importance** for measurement and policy practice alike. Collecting better quality data on the interplay between digital technology and the quantity, quality and diversity of social interactions will help to expand the thus far limited evidence base on this topic.

While beyond the scope of this working paper, understanding which components of social connectedness are most policy relevant – in terms of being a unique determinant of other aspects of well-being – will be an important future analytical exercise to then identify a narrower set of key indicators. Building off the lessons learned in this scoping exercise of current *practice*, future measurement work should then focus on a thorough assessment of the *statistical properties* of the different question items or scales identified as being most useful for policy, including: an analysis on the validity, reliability and cross-group comparability of different approaches; evidence on how survey mode affects social connection estimates; and guidance on good practice in interpretation and reporting. This future exercise would culminate in full measurement recommendations for social connectedness, focusing on the components of social connectedness that are most policy relevant.

1.1. Social connectedness as a policy priority across OECD countries

Over the past five or so years, several OECD countries have begun to identify social connections as a policy priority. For instance, in 2018, the government of the United Kingdom created the first Minister for Loneliness, followed by the launch of a national strategy to improve social connectedness (UK Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, 2018^[24]); the government produces annual reports outlining progress achieved and future actions planned for different government departments (Department for Culture, Media and Sport and Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport, 2023^[25]; Department for Culture, Media & Sport, 2023^[26]), and the Local Government Association has produced a guide for local authorities in how to combat loneliness (Local Government Association, 2018^[27]). In the same year, the Netherlands outlined its 2018 Loneliness Programme (Ministry of Health Welfare and Sport, 2023^[28]), and in 2019, the United States introduced bipartisan bills to address the negative effects of social isolation and loneliness among ageing Americans (Coalition to End Social Isolation and Loneliness, 2019^[29]).

Interest has accelerated in more recent years, especially following the COVID-19 pandemic. Social isolation and loneliness have now been recognised as public health priorities by the European Commission (European Commission, 2022^[30]) and the World Health Organization, through its Global Commission on Social Connection (WHO, 2023^[21]). In 2021, Japan appointed a Minister for Social Isolation and Loneliness (Prime Minister of Japan Cabinet Office, 2021^[31]), and in April 2024 enacted a law establishing loneliness and isolation as whole-of-society issues, requiring local governments to establish support groups for those most affected (Asahi Shimbun, 2024^[32]). The German government adopted a Strategy against Loneliness

in 2022, which it is partnering with the Loneliness Competence Network (KNEF) to implement; examples of programmes that are funded under this strategy include the establishment of multi-generational homes, funding story-telling salons and community meeting places at the municipal level, and targeting outreach efforts at low-income elderly people most at risk for isolation (BMFSFJ, 2022^[33]; BMFSFJ, 2022^[34]). The U.S. Surgeon General published an influential advisory report drawing attention to the significance of social connectedness for individual and community health and well-being in 2023 (Office of the U.S. Surgeon General, 2023^[12]), and the Swedish Public Health Agency, on behalf of the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, and the Spanish Ministry of Social Rights and Agenda 2030 are both currently developing national loneliness strategies (Swedish Presidency of the Council of the European Union, 2023^[35]; EPE, 2022^[36]).

Policy efforts by governments cover a wide range of initiatives, reflecting both great interest in the topic of reducing loneliness and isolation, but also that the evidence base on what works is thus far relatively limited. While some policies focus on interventions tailored to empowering the individual, others focus on structural levers to influence social infrastructure at the societal level; most national strategies include a mix of both. The development of evidence-backed policies to foster social connectedness is still at an early stage, making this topic well suited to knowledge exchange between countries active in the field.

Aside from these explicit strategies, many OECD countries have recognised social connections as a key domain in national well-being initiatives. Well-being initiatives can take many forms – a dashboard to monitor the state of a population’s well-being, a well-being focused survey or a short-list of indicators that are used to inform budgeting (OECD, 2023^[37]). Among the two-thirds of OECD countries that have some form of a national well-being initiative (refer to Table A A.1), 85% have included some aspect of social connections in their conceptual frameworks (see Figure 3.2).

Much of the impetus for this policy focus stems from the growing sense that loneliness and isolation are on the rise. Indeed, in countries where relevant time series data exist, there is evidence of declining time spent on social activities: between 2005 and 2018, in Canada, Italy and the United States the average weekly time spent in social interactions fell by around half an hour, and in Belgium by more than 40 minutes (OECD, 2020^[22]). In the United States, between 2003 and 2020, time spent alone increased, while time spent with others decreased (Kannan and Veazie, 2023^[38]). Moreover, over half of Americans in 2021 reported having three or fewer close friends compared to only a quarter in 1990 (Cox, 2017^[39]; Office of the U.S. Surgeon General, 2023^[12]). Trends in the prevalence of loneliness suggest a rise during the COVID-19 pandemic, with younger people most affected (OECD, 2021^[17]; The Cigna Group, 2021^[40]).

While most researchers are in agreement that the risk of loneliness increased for all population groups during the pandemic, with young people particularly vulnerable,¹ studies of trends in loneliness prevalence in the years prior yield conflicting results. Some systematic reviews have found that the increase in loneliness among young people in the United States preceded the onset of COVID-19, and that in fact loneliness among adolescents and young adults under 30 had been rising since the 1970s (Buecker et al., 2021^[41]). However other studies find either no increase, or even a decline in reported loneliness for youth (Trzesniewski and Donnellan, 2010^[42]; Hawkley et al., 2022^[43]). The reasons for these disparate findings are likely complex and in part reflect study quality issues such as small sample sizes and the lack of consistency in the measurement approach to loneliness across all studies; more research is needed to disentangle the causes (Ijzerman, 2023^[44]; Paris et al., 2023^[45]). Selection of high-quality indicators, and consistency in measurement – over time, and across countries – would enable researchers and policy

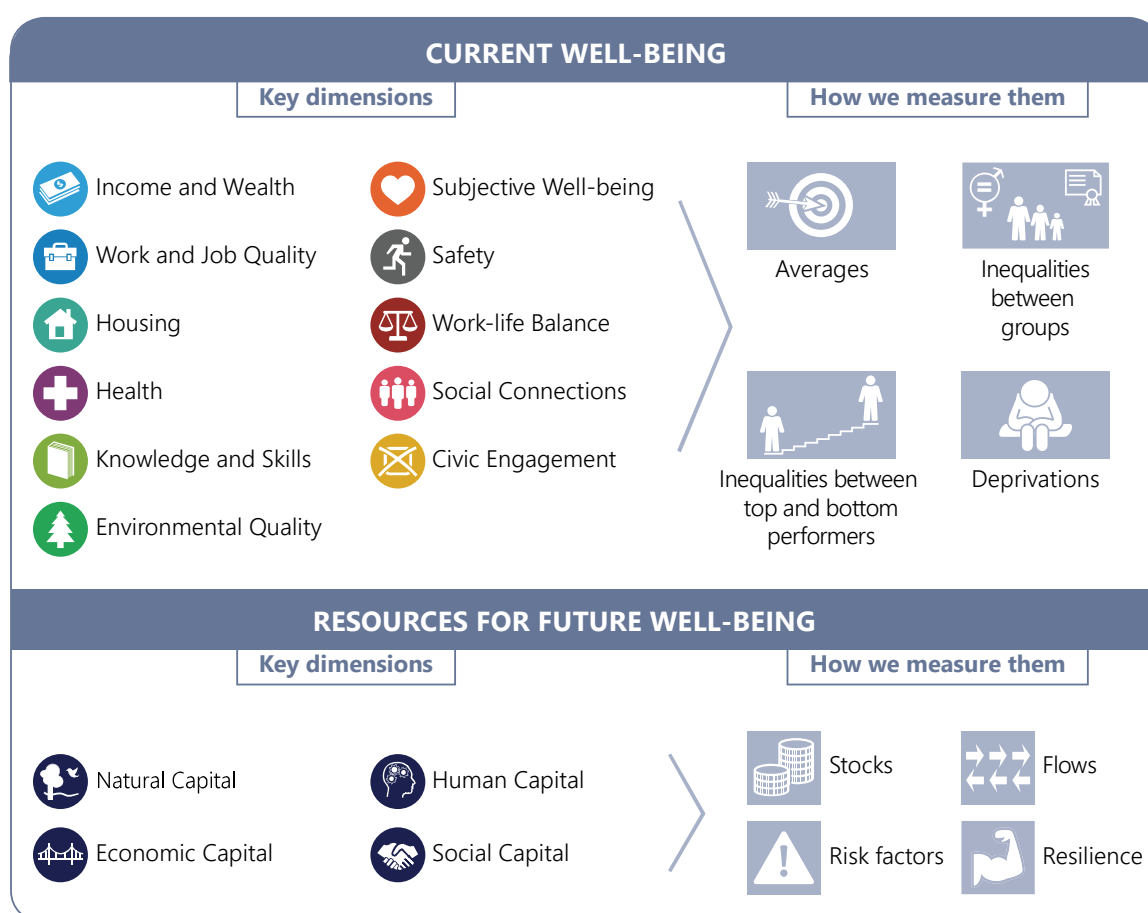
¹ The framework and indicators illustrated in this working paper were primarily developed for adult populations, rather than for young people or children. There is academic work that has developed scales particularly suited to younger children (Asher, Hymel and Renshaw, 1984^[121]; Cole et al., 2021^[123]), often with a particular focus on loneliness, as well as work done by national statistical offices (ONS, 2018^[119]; ONS, 2019^[120]). It is beyond the scope of this paper to consider child-specific measures, however this may be taken up in future work.

makers alike to better understand the dynamics of social connections over time and identify warning signs early on.

1.2. Existing OECD work on measuring social connections

The OECD's Well-being Framework has guided the organisation's work in conceptualising and measuring well-being, and benchmarking the performance of member states, since 2011. The framework includes eleven dimensions of current well-being – covering the material, social, relational and environmental outcomes (and inequalities in these) that determine what makes a good life – along with four capital stocks that support the sustainability of well-being into the future (Figure 1.1).

Figure 1.1. The OECD Well-being Framework



Source: OECD (2020^[22]), *How's Life? 2020: Measuring Well-Being*, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9870c393-en>.

Social connections are a stand-alone dimension of the OECD Well-being Framework, and refer to the quantity and quality of time individuals spend with one another, alongside the support they feel they have. The social connectedness indicators currently available on an international basis and included in the dashboard operationalising the Framework (and publicly available in the OECD *How's Life?* Well-being Database) are shown in Table 1.1. A range of related concepts that capture aggregate communal and societal connections are addressed in other parts of the Well-being Framework, including in particular social capital, which refers to societal norms, shared values and institutional arrangements that foster cooperation between population groups (Table 1.1).

Table 1.1. Comparing social connections and social capital: Definitions and sample indicators

Social connections	Social capital
<i>The quantity and quality of time spent with others, and how much support people feel they have</i>	<i>The social norms, shared values and institutional arrangements that foster co-operation among population groups</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time spent in social interactions • The share of people who report having friends or relatives they can count on in times of trouble • Satisfaction with personal relationships • Loneliness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteering • Trust (in others, in institutions, in government) • Government stakeholder engagement • Gender parity in politics • Perceptions of public sector corruption

Source: OECD (2024^[46]), *How's Life? Well-being Database*, [https://data-explorer.oecd.org/?fs\[0\]=Topic%2C1%7CSociety%23SOC%23%7CWell-being%20and%20beyond%20GDP%23SOC_WEL%23&pg=0&fc=Topic&bp=true&snb=8](https://data-explorer.oecd.org/?fs[0]=Topic%2C1%7CSociety%23SOC%23%7CWell-being%20and%20beyond%20GDP%23SOC_WEL%23&pg=0&fc=Topic&bp=true&snb=8); OECD (2020^[22]), *How's Life? 2020: Measuring Well-Being*, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9870c393-en>.

Data on social connections currently included in the OECD's How's Life? Well-being Database pull from official sources wherever possible, however the lack of harmonisation and infrequency of data collection mean that country coverage is not as robust as it could be, and the creation of time series is not always feasible. In some instances, data from international surveys are used as supplementary placeholders, until more data collected by official data producers becomes available.

2. Understanding the components of social connectedness

The language used by stakeholders to describe social connectedness often varies across initiatives. Some of the national and international strategies focus on reducing loneliness, others have targeted growing social isolation, while still others warn of a rising tendency towards spending time alone – and many touch on all aspects. Evidence suggests that different facets of social connectedness – e.g. loneliness, isolation, time spent with others – have independent effects on various health and well-being outcomes and thus constitute distinct targets for interventions. For instance, there is evidence that spending little time with others is linked to early mortality and worse mental health (Holt-Lunstad et al., 2015^[2]; Hansen et al., 2017^[47]); positive social support improves academic performance, while loneliness hurts job performance (Rueger, Malecki and Demaray, 2010^[6]; Matthews et al., 2019^[4]); and stressful family relationships can harm both physical and mental health (Alm, Brolin Låftman and Bohman, 2019^[48]).

2.1. Social connectedness is multidimensional

Theoretical and conceptual studies of social connectedness pull from the fields of sociology, psychology and anthropology, among others. Academic work on modern conceptual frameworks gained traction in the mid-20th century, with more work published in the ensuing decades. Much of this research focuses on loneliness in particular, and proposes typologies of loneliness sub-components that are distinct from one another (Weiss, 1973^[49]; Perlman and Peplau, 1981^[50]; de Jong-Gierveld and van Tilburg, 2006^[51]). Generally speaking, the psychological literature tends to distinguish between aspects of emotional loneliness (absence of meaningful relationships), social loneliness (a perceived deficit in the quality of social connections) and existential loneliness (a feeling of fundamental separateness from others and the wider world). In addition, a distinction between transient (loneliness that comes and goes), situational (loneliness that is experienced in a specific context – for example, during the holiday period) and chronic (persistent) loneliness is sometimes made (Campaign to End Loneliness, 2023^[52]).

Academic research on the topic has revealed the existence of distinct underlying constructs. For example, Hawkley et al. (2005^[53]) find evidence of a three-dimensional structure to loneliness, and subsequent validation in other population groups has largely confirmed this finding (Cacioppo and Cacioppo, 2012^[54]). In a separate study, Huxhold et al. (2022^[55]) show that while loneliness and perceived social isolation are highly correlated, they are distinct concepts.

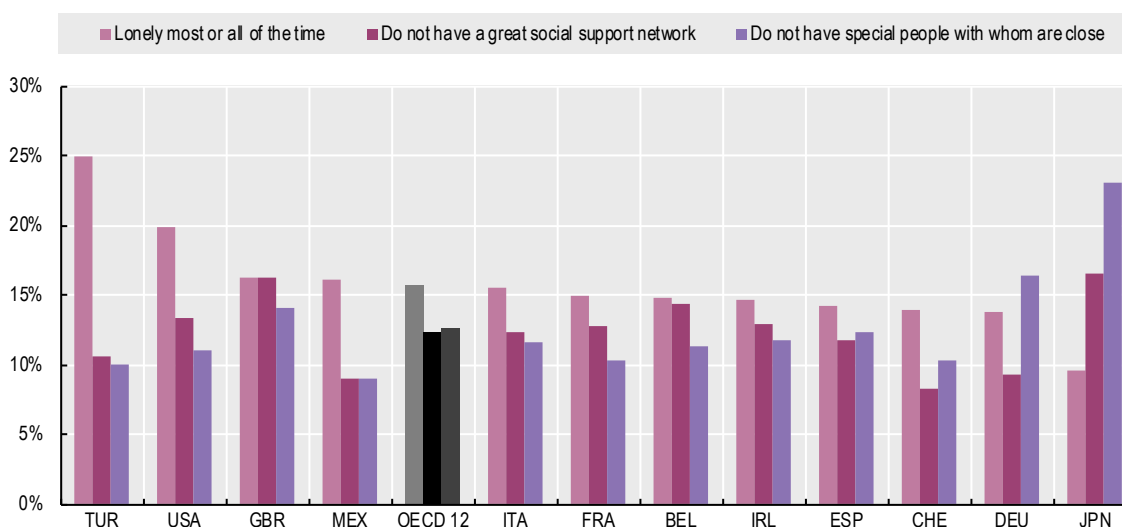
One way of illustrating this empirically is to show that different concepts of social connectedness exhibit different patterns of predictive validity, and indeed many studies have investigated this question. For instance, while both social isolation and loneliness are associated with negative health outcomes and behaviours, some studies have found the former to be a stronger predictor of cardiovascular and mortality risk, and the latter of psychological outcomes, including depression, as well as dementia (Freak-Poli et al., 2021^[56]; Holwerda et al., 2014^[57]; Hong et al., 2023^[58]). A separate study investigating substance use

(cigarette, alcohol and marijuana) among young adolescents found that different types of social isolation and disengagement predict different likelihoods of engaging in risky behaviours (Copeland et al., 2018^[59]).

A second empirical approach is to compare outcomes of different social connectedness measures for a given individual, to see the extent to which they do – or do not – relate to one another. Research has repeatedly shown that different types of social connectedness are not strongly correlated with one another (Perissinotto and Covinsky, 2014^[60]; Danvers et al., 2023^[61]; Coyle and Dugan, 2012^[62]; Hyland et al., 2019^[63]). Figure 2.1 depicts an illustration of this, by showing the share of respondents in 12 OECD countries who (1) report feeling lonely frequently, (2) do not feel that they have a strong social support network, and (3) do not have special people with whom they feel close. Across surveyed countries, the outcomes for these three questions are correlated with one another, but imperfectly so – suggesting that each indicator may be capturing a different underlying concept. This can also be seen visually in the extreme ends of the distribution: in this survey, a quarter of respondents in Türkiye said they feel lonely, but only 10% report not having people they to whom they feel close. Conversely, in Japan, fewer than 10% of respondents reported feeling lonely, but over one-fifth state they do not have close social relationships. It is important to note, however, that the lack of correlation may also reflect that fact that the concepts are poorly measured. This again underscores the importance of improving measurement efforts.

Figure 2.1. Different survey questions reveal different facets of social connectedness

Share of respondents who report feeling each of the following, OECD 12, 2022



Note: Sample sizes were 2 000 respondents in each country, and data were weighted post-hoc to be representative of the general population in terms of gender, age, region and occupation.

Source: OECD calculations based on AXA (2023^[64]), *Toward a New Understanding: How we strengthen mind health and wellbeing at home, at work and online*, AXA Group, <https://www.axa.com/en/about-us/mind-health-report>.

Combined, these different methodological approaches illustrate that aspects of social connections are distinct from one another, showing the utility of collecting a variety of measures. There is suggestive evidence that different indicators (loneliness, isolation, etc.) have differential impacts on outcomes of interest, such as mortality, however these pathways are not yet well understood and more research is needed to understand how these constructs interact with one another. This can then facilitate a ranking of relevant measures, whereby the most policy relevant aspects of social connectedness are prioritised for inclusion in regularly fielded surveys. An important first step in improving the measurement landscape is to harmonise question phrasing and answer scales for the most important constructs, enabling researchers to conduct the type of rigorous analysis that can then answer these important policy questions.

2.2. Towards a working definition of social connections

To organise the discussion of measurement practice of social connections in OECD countries, this paper adapts a conceptual framework developed by Holt-Lunstad, Robles and Sbara (2017^[65]). This framework provides one way of classifying the theoretical sub-components of social connectedness, to then be able to organise current data collection efforts and summarise the types of indicators where measurement practice is more or less developed.²

The schema developed by Holt-Lunstad, Robles and Sbara is a useful working definition not only given its academic credentials but also its practical use in strategy and agenda setting. The framework is widely referred to in the academic literature on social connectedness (Zucchetto, 2021^[66]; Wickramaratne et al., 2022^[67]; Paris et al., 2023^[45]; Samtani et al., 2022^[68]), and, importantly, often drawn on to position social connections as a public health issue, and thus relevant to policy makers (Holt-Lunstad, Robles and Sbarra, 2017^[65]; Holt-Lunstad, 2022^[23]). Indeed, this research has been cited by OECD countries in their own national social connections strategies, including in the United Kingdom (HM Government, 2018^[69]), Germany (Schobin et al., 2023^[70]) and the United States (Office of the U.S. Surgeon General, 2023^[12]).

Holt-Lunstad et. al define social connections as “encompass[ing] the variety of ways we can connect to others socially – through physical, behavioural, social-cognitive, and emotional channels” (2017^[65]), and distinguish between components of structure, function and quality. For the purposes of this scoping exercise, this paper has added an additional component – community and societal connectedness – to stress the aspects of current measurement practice that go beyond connectedness at the individual level (Figure 2.2).

Broadly speaking, then, the main categories of social connectedness can be defined accordingly:³

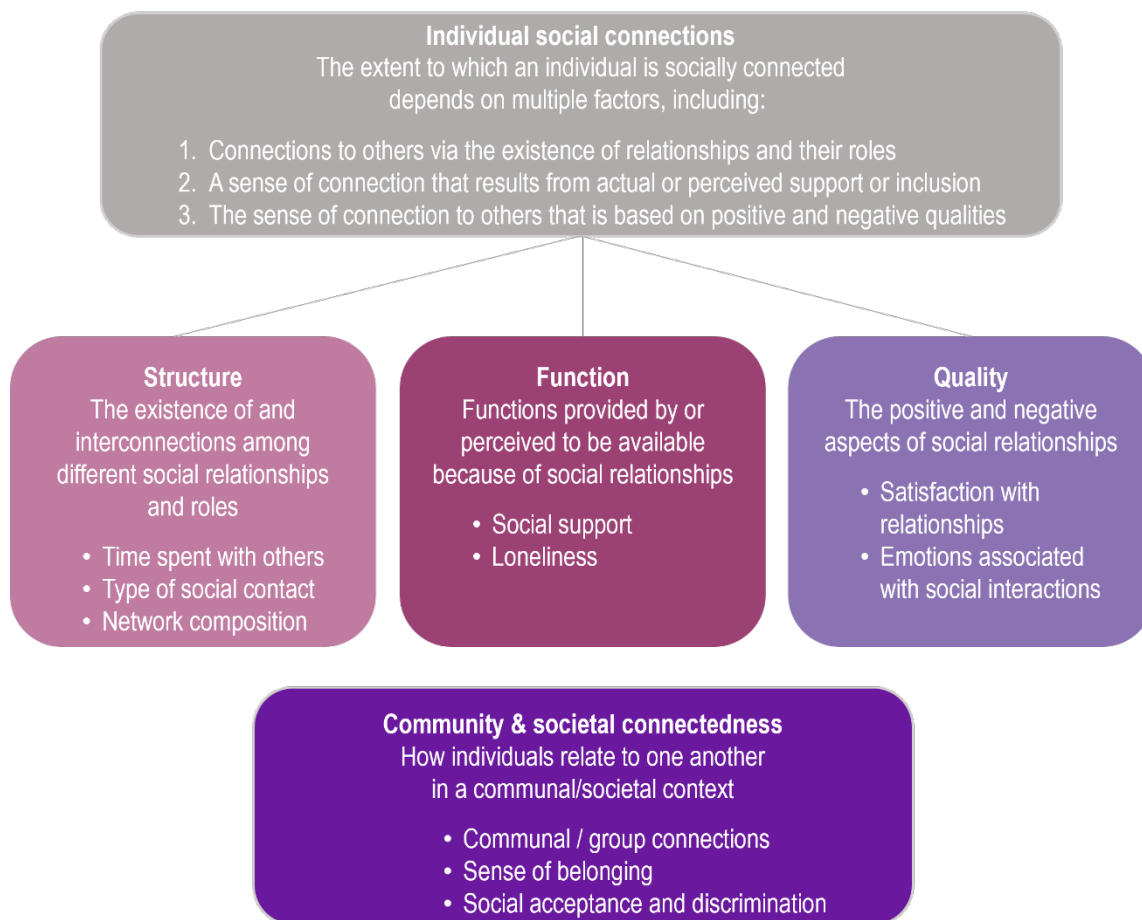
- **Structure** encompasses people’s connection to others via the existence of social relationships, roles and interactions.
- **Function** aims to capture the actual or perceived support provided by people’s relationships.
- **Quality** acknowledges the positive and negative aspects in one’s social relationships (e.g., relationship satisfaction, closeness, strain, conflict).
- **Communal and societal connectedness** measures have been added to this framework to capture indicators showing how individuals relate to one another – and to larger group entities – in the broader societal context. This component shares many characteristics with social capital (recall Table 1.1), however the communal and societal connectedness category in this working paper includes *new* areas – like social acceptance and discrimination, and a sense of belonging – that have not previously been captured in other OECD measurement work.

More details on each component of the conceptual framework, illustrative examples of how each can be (and have been) collected in official household surveys, and a brief overview of the importance of each in determining other well-being outcomes, are expanded upon in the following sections.

² A full multi-disciplinary overview of all conceptual frameworks on the topic of social connections is beyond the scope of this report, however, like Holt-Lunstad et al., most existing approaches acknowledge the existence of multiple latent concepts.

³ Note that there is heterogeneity within each category of social connections – that is, the “structure”, “function”, “quality” and “communal and societal connectedness” are not necessarily capturing a single, distinct, latent construct (Paris et al., 2023^[45]). For example, indicators of social support are likely to capture information, and have predictive power, that is distinct from indicators of loneliness, despite both falling under the “function” classification.

Figure 2.2. A schema for measuring social connections



Note: Example indicators within each box are meant to illustrate measurement approaches, they do not constitute a comprehensive list of all approaches to measuring a given topic.

Source: Adapted from Holt-Lunstad, Robles and Sbara (2017^[65]), "Advancing social connection as a public health priority in the United States", *The American Psychologist*, Vol. 72/6, p. 517-530, <https://doi.org/10.1037/AMP0000103>.

In the absence of international measurement guidelines on social connections, this adapted framework provides a useful scaffold against which the efforts of national statistical office efforts can be mapped and compared. Future measurement work – that delves into the statistical properties of component indicators and analyses their ability to predict policy relevant outcomes – may yield slight revisions or reworking of the framework.

Structure: Time spent with others, type of social contact, network size and diversity

Structure captures the mechanics of social behaviour and the objective characteristics of people's connections. For this reason, relevant indicators often quantify observable features of people's relationships: for example the length of time spent interacting with other people, the way in which interactions occurred (i.e., in person vs. over the phone, or via a shared activity), and the composition of one's social network (Holt-Lunstad, 2018^[71]).

Each of these structural aspects matters for different aspects of well-being, such as physical and mental health or labour market outcomes (OECD, 2023^[1]). Social isolation⁴ – spending little time with others, and much time alone – has been found to increase the risk of early mortality by 29% (Holt-Lunstad et al., 2015^[2]), while being in contact with family and friends less than once a month is associated with worse mental health outcomes (Hansen et al., 2017^[47]). Indeed, this can be a vicious cycle, in that social isolation may alter an individual's cognitive processes and social cognition, leading to lower interpersonal trust and hypervigilance for social threats, which then further contribute to less motivation to connect with others (OECD, 2023^[1]). Conversely, there is substantial evidence in the psychological and sociological literature that individuals with larger and stronger social networks tend to be happier, more satisfied with their lives, and have better health outcomes (Amati et al., 2018^[8]; Tomini, Tomini and Groot, 2016^[72]; van der Horst and Coffé, 2012^[73]).⁵ In fact, the frequency of social contact with friends and family is associated with higher levels of emotional well-being, regardless of an individual's underlying mental health status (OECD, 2023^[1]). Moreover, the size of an individual's network can impact their economic and labour market outcomes, including through help finding a job, receiving promotions, bonuses and preventing job loss (Calvó-Armengol and Jackson, 2004^[74]; Montgomery, 1991^[75]). For instance, one study found that the size of one's social network and the amount of time spent with friends during adolescence are both associated with increased wage earnings in adulthood (Lleras-Muney et al., 2020^[76]). One's social network can also influence an individual's economic status, as cross-class connections among people from different socio-economic backgrounds are a crucial driver of upward economic mobility (Chetty et al., 2022^[10]; Chetty et al., 2022^[77]). Social networks can also influence safety and physical well-being: one study on community violence found that cities with larger migrant social networks⁶ had lower rates of violent crime rates (Stuart and Taylor, 2021^[11]).

Across the surveys considered in this exercise, many of the questions capturing *time spent with others* focus on (1) the frequency of social interactions (e.g., “How often do you spend time with your friends?”, Italian Multipurpose Survey on Households) (Table 2.1), (2) the amount of time spent socialising in a given period (e.g., “On a given day, which of the following activities did you do?” – including “visit[ing] family or friends; chatting with colleagues, or with friends/family,” – “For how much time?”, Colombian Time Use Survey) (Table 2.1), and (3) the extent to which individuals are socially isolated: i.e., socialise very

⁴ While there is much evidence showing that time spent with others has benefits for other well-being outcomes, and that spending more time alone can be correlated with poor outcomes, being on one's own is not inherently negative. Indeed, the inverse of (negative) “isolation” is (positive) “solitude”, a state of being alone characterised by feelings of peace, calm and contentment. Positive solitude has been shown to be associated with higher levels of creativity, improved intimacy, greater self-actualisation and can serve as a buffer against stress (Long and Averill, 2003^[127]; Larson and Lee, 1996^[125]). The objective state of being alone is not inherently negative; this shows the importance of capturing a variety of indicators on social connectedness, including those that include subjective assessments.

⁵ Each paper looks at social networks, but use slightly different outcome variables. Amati et al. (2018^[8]) look at both friendship intensity (measured as the frequency with which individuals spend time with friends) as well as the quality of those friendships (measured through a satisfaction question); Tomini, Tomini and Groot (2016^[72]) look at the size of networks (the number of friends and family members) and the composition of that network, measured as the proportion of friends to the total; van der Horst and Coffé (2012^[73]) measure three components of friendship networks: number of friends, frequency of interaction and heterogeneity (ethnicity, native language, gender, income bracket, education level, age group) of the network.

⁶ The paper focuses on migration networks among African Americans who left Southern states in the early part of the 20th century to re-settle in Northern and mid-Western cities. The authors construct a variable of social connectedness at the city-level using data on individuals' place of birth and migration flows to urban centres. Cities with higher densities of migrant populations from the same birthplace experienced lower rates of violent crime; the authors posit one explanation is that the strength of community ties and quality of social relationships among members of a network who share a place of birth may bolster anti-crime norms, and thereby dissuade individuals from committing crimes against other members of the community (Stuart and Taylor, 2021^[11]).

infrequently (e.g., a constructed social isolation index, for which the threshold of isolation is defined as one contact per month, French Statistics on Resources and Living Conditions Survey) (Table A A.2). (Refer to Table 2.1 for a few highlighted examples, and Table A A.2 for the full list.)

The majority of questions on the **type of social contact** focus on how people contact and spend time with one another. For example, Canada’s Social Survey asks, “Thinking of all the relatives you had contact with in the past month, how often did you do the following? See any of your relatives in person; talk with any of your relatives by the phone; communicate with any of your relatives by email or online social networks (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, instant message; Skype and FaceTime)” (Table 2.1). As another example, the European Statistics on Income and Living Conditions Survey (EU-SILC) includes a question asking respondents the frequency with which they participate in social networking sites (Table 2.1, see Table A A.2 for a longer list of related examples).

Table 2.1. Structure: Time spent with others, type of social contact, network diversity

Illustrative examples of questions and response scales/answer options from selected surveys, by category

	Example question	Response scales/answer options	Survey name
Time spent with others	How often do you meet with friends in your free time?	Every day; more than once a week, once a week; a few times a month; (less than 4 times); a few times a year; never; I have no friends.	Multipurpose Survey on Households (ITA)
	On a given day, which of the following activities did you do? For how much time?	Attending bars, dance venues, parties or events, visit family or friends; chatting with colleagues, or with friends/family; none of the above.	Time Use Survey (COL)
Type of social contact	Thinking of all the relatives you had contact with in the past month, how often did you do the following? See any of your relatives in person; talk with any of your relatives by the phone; communicate with any of your relatives by email or online social networks (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, instant message; Skype and FaceTime).	Every day; a few times a week; once a week; 2 or 3 times a month; once a month; not in the past month.	General Social Survey – Social Identity (CAN)
	Frequency of communication via social media: the frequency with which the respondent participates actively in social networking sites, such as community-based web sites, online discussions forums, chat rooms and other social spaces online.	Daily; every week (not every day); several times a month; once a month; at least once a year (less than once a month); never.	European Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (Europe)
Network composition	Do you have close friends who are not of the same gender/age/religion/level of religiosity/origin or ethnicity/level of education/level of income as you?	Yes; no.	Social Survey (ISR)
	Not counting your close friends or relatives, approximately how many other friends do you have? Include acquaintances as well as online friends.	1; 2-19; 20-49; 50-79; 80 or more; no other friends.	General Social Survey – Social Identity (CAN)

Note: Refer to Table A A.2 for a full list of example questions.

The **composition of individuals’ networks** captures how many people individuals spend time with and who these people are.⁷ The types of questions included in nationally representative household surveys

⁷ Social network analysis is a field of research stemming from the sociology literature that seeks to analyse social networks through increasingly complex models of mapping social structures and social interactions (Carrington, Scott and Wasserman, 2005_[116]). For the most part, the data needed to create these models exceed that collected via household surveys. However, some national statistical offices are experimenting with using administrative data for network analysis: the Central Bureau of Statistics in the Netherlands has created a “personal network” indicator, combining information on where people study, work and live (and with whom) from tax, education and personal record

usually focus on questions relating to network size (e.g. “Not counting your close friends or relatives, approximately how many other friends do you have?”, Canadian General Social Survey – Social Identity module) (Table 2.1), and network diversity, or the variation in socio-demographic characteristics across a network (e.g., “Do you have close friends who are not of the same gender/age/religion/level of religiosity/origin or ethnicity/level of education/level of income as you?”, Israeli Social Survey) (Table 2.1, see also Table A A.2 for more examples).

Function: Social support, loneliness

Measures of the function of social connections go beyond describing the existence of a connection or connective behaviour and aim to capture the actual or perceived support those relationships provide. These measures consider the degree to which others can be relied upon for various needs, and an individual’s perception of the extent to which those needs are being fulfilled, often via two key concepts: social support and loneliness.

Perceptions of loneliness and social support have both been shown to be important contributors to multiple domains of well-being, including physical and mental health, academic achievement and labour market outcomes, and even trust in government and support for democratic norms. Feelings of loneliness are a strong determinant of both physical (Akhter-Khan et al., 2021^[78]; Holt-Lunstad et al., 2015^[2]; Penninkilampi et al., 2018^[79]; Valtorta et al., 2016^[80]) and mental health (Wang et al., 2018^[81]; Cruwys et al., 2013^[82]; Cacioppo et al., 2008^[83]). Levels of subjective well-being, including life satisfaction, tend to increase with the number of people an individual can trust and confide in, and with whom they can discuss problems or important matters (Amati et al., 2018^[8]; Burt, 1987^[84]; Taylor et al., 2001^[85]), whereas poor perceived social support and loneliness predict lower levels of life satisfaction, and more severe outcomes – including symptoms, recovery and social functioning – for those experiencing depression (OECD, 2023^[1]; Wang et al., 2018^[81]).⁸

Beyond health, positive social support from parents, friends, classmates and teachers leads to better academic performance and educational attainment outcomes (Saeed et al., 2023^[86]; Holahan, Valentiner and Moos, 1995^[87]; Rueger, Malecki and Demaray, 2010^[6]; Dwyer and Cummings, 2001^[88]), while loneliness is associated with lower performance and productivity at work and a higher risk of unemployment (Morrish, Mujica-Mota and Medina-Lara, 2022^[5]; Matthews et al., 2019^[4]). For example, in the United States, a study conducted among medical students revealed an association between feeling lonely and dropping out of the programme (Maher et al., 2013^[89]). A separate analysis found that lonely workers have significantly greater stress-related absenteeism compared to workers who are not lonely (Bowers et al., 2022^[90]). Conversely, supportive and inclusive relationships at work are associated with employee job satisfaction, creativity, competence and better performance (Patel and Plowman, 2022^[9]). Finally, new research sheds light on the relationship between loneliness and political extremism. A study of young people in Germany finds an association between feeling lonely, disconnected and misunderstood with being more likely to feel sympathetic to authoritarian political viewpoints, to agree that political violence is justified, and to believe in conspiracy theories (Neu et al., 2023^[7]).

Indicators of **social support** evaluate whether others can be relied upon (or a respondent believes that they can) to meet one’s various needs, while also describing the nature of these needs: that is, they cover both the availability and type of social support. Social support can take many different forms, such as

administrative data, allowing for analysis on socio-economic and ethnic segregation at the municipal level in the Netherlands (CBS, 2024^[117]; SCP, 2024^[128]).

⁸ In terms of pathways, loneliness has been found to impact both biological and behavioural aspects of mental health, in that it can contribute to increased cortisol levels, disrupted sleep patterns, higher risk of substance use to self-medicate, and lower likelihood to engage in protective activities such as exercise (which also has been found to have additional mental health benefits if done in the company of others) (OECD, 2023^[11]).

emotional support (e.g., demonstrating love, care and meeting the full range of people’s emotional needs), informational support (e.g., access to advice or useful knowledge), and instrumental, practical or financial support (e.g., free childcare, transportation or the provision of a loan) (National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, 2020^[91]). Questions on the availability and type of social support can refer to both hypothetical and experienced circumstances. Those on the *availability* of social support tend to revolve around hypothetical situations (e.g., “How many people do you feel close enough to you that you could count on them if you had a serious personal problem?”, Irish Health Survey Carers and Social Support module) (Table 2.2), while those on the *type* of support adopt a mix of both approaches (e.g., “Suppose you felt down or a bit depressed [...] how easy or hard would it be to talk to someone?” New Zealand General Social Survey (Table 2.2); or, “In the past 12 months, did this household receive help in the form of money or goods [...]?” Gallup World Poll) (Table A A.3).

Loneliness is typically measured either through a battery of multiple-item scales to obtain a latent measure, or as a single self-assessed question. The two most common multi-item tools used in both academic studies and household surveys are the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) 3-item scale (included in the Japanese Basic Survey on Human Connection and the English Community Life Survey – see Table 2.2 and Table A A.3), and the De Jong-Gierveld (DJG) 6-item scale (used in the Dutch Social Cohesion Survey, see Table A A.3). The former asks respondents how frequently they feel a series of states – lacking companionship, left out, and isolated from others – while the latter asks respondents the extent to which they agree with six statements – I often feel rejected, there are enough people I feel close to, etc. Both scales have a general reference period rather than a fixed recall period – i.e., the respondent is asked how often they *generally* feel these emotions, or the extent to which they *generally* agree with these statements (Russell, 1996^[92]; de Jong-Gierveld and Van Tilburg, 2006^[93]). By contrast, direct single-item questions usually ask a respondent to report how often they feel lonely over a given period of time (e.g., “How often did you feel lonely over the past four weeks?” European Statistics on Income and Living Standards Survey) (Table 2.2).

Table 2.2. Function: Social support, loneliness

Illustrative examples of questions and answer options from selected surveys, by category

	Example question	Answer options	Survey name
Social support	How many people do you feel close enough to you that you could count on them if you had a serious personal problem?	None; 1 or 2; 3 to 5; 6 or more.	Irish Health Survey – Carers and Social Support (IRL)
	Suppose you felt down or a bit depressed and wanted to talk with someone about it. How easy or hard would it be to talk to someone?	Very easy; easy; sometimes easy/sometimes hard; hard; very hard.	New Zealand General Social Survey (NZL)
Loneliness	How often did you feel lonely over the past four weeks?	All of the time; most of the time; some of the time; a little of the time; none of the time.	European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (Europe)
	Three-item UCLA Loneliness scale: How often do you feel that you lack companionship? How often do you feel left out? How often do you feel isolated from others?	Hardly ever or never; some of the time, often.	Basic Survey on Human Connection (JPN)

Note: Refer to Table A A.3 for a full list of example questions.

Quality: Satisfaction with relationships, emotions associated with social interactions

The quality of social connections refers to both positive and negative aspects of relationships (e.g. cohesion, intimacy, closeness, strain, conflict). In household surveys, indicators of social connections quality tend to be captured through questions relating to how satisfied a respondent is with a given relationship (i.e., with one’s family life, with how often one sees friends, with one’s social relationships, etc.). Quality can also be assessed via the emotions experienced while engaging in a certain activity with a given person (or group of people). The latter are most commonly captured in time use surveys.

The quality of relationships impacts people’s health and well-being through a range of different channels. Research shows that marital and close family relationships can be great sources of support, or of strain (e.g., arguments, being critical, making too many demands), trauma, and other harmful outcomes, depending on their quality (Thomas, Liu and Umberson, 2017^[94]). Low quality, negative or stressful marital and family relationships are linked to worse mental and physical health outcomes (Robles et al., 2014^[95]; Alm, Brolin Låftman and Bohman, 2019^[48]). Children and young people are especially vulnerable to the negative impact of low-quality relationships both within and outside the family (e.g., through peer pressure and bullying), with lifelong consequences (Giletta et al., 2021^[96]).

Questions measuring **satisfaction with relationships** can be general, as in the Chilean Welfare Survey: “In general, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with your relationship with family, friends, and other people you know?” (Table 2.3). However, not all of these indicators have a direct “satisfaction with” formulation. Some questions probe for more information about interpersonal relationships. For example, the Mexican National Survey of Self-reported Well-being asks respondents whether they can easily identify three aspects they “most admire in [their] partner”; whether their “opinion is taken into account” when their partner makes decisions; and whether they and their partner make a good team (see Table 2.3, and Table A A.4 for a longer list of examples).

Table 2.3. Quality: Satisfaction with relationships

Illustrative examples of questions and answer options from selected surveys, by category

	Example question	Answer options	Survey name
Satisfaction with relationships	In general, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with your relationship with family, friends, and other people you know?	Totally dissatisfied; dissatisfied; indifferent; satisfied; fully satisfied.	Social Welfare Survey (CHL)
	Do you consider that... 1. you can easily point to 3 aspects that you most admire in your partner?; 2. your opinion is taken into account by your partner when they make a decision? 3. you make a good team with your partner?	Yes; no	National Survey of Self-reported Well-being (MEX)
Emotions associated with social interactions	Between [STARTTIME OF EPISODE] and [STOPTIME OF EPISODE] yesterday, you said you were doing [ACTIVITY]. You may choose any number to reflect how strongly you experienced this feeling during this time: <i>happy, tired, stressed, sad, pain, meaningful</i>	On a 0 to 6 scale.	American Time Use Survey – Well-being Module (USA)
	When you are with other people, how often do you feel belittled?	All the time, most of the time, sometimes, rarely, never, does not know, no answer	European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions – National survey (LUX)

Note: Refer to Table A A.4 for a full list of example questions.

Another approach to measuring the quality of social connections is to record the **emotions one experiences when engaging in different types of social activities**. For example, the American Time Use Survey runs an irregular well-being module, which asks respondents to record their emotional reactions to each activity from the day prior – enabling data users to link affective states (happy, tired, stressed, sad, pain, meaningful) not only to different activities (watching television, eating a meal, playing sports), but also to engagement with different groups of people (family, friends, colleagues) (Table 2.3). In other time use surveys, a common scoring approach is to ask time use diary respondents to indicate how pleasant an activity is on a scale from -3 (very unpleasant) to 3 (very pleasant): this is used in the French, Italian and Australian time use surveys (Table A A.4).⁹ Emotional responses do not necessarily need to be captured via time use surveys, however. For example, the Luxembourg National Survey on Income and Living Standards (SILC) has a series of three questions asking people how often they feel “belittled” or “ashamed” when around others, or that other people “do not pay attention” to them (Table 2.3).

Community connectedness

The previous sections describe different ways in which *individuals* relate to one another. Community and social connectedness indicators, on the other hand, examine how individuals interact with larger groups.¹⁰ This relates to the extent to which individuals feel connected to different groups, or observe cohesion between individuals within these larger groups; feelings of belonging and inclusion; and perceptions of social acceptance or experiences of discrimination. Given their focus on group interactions, and one’s relationship to society, these indicators have some degree of overlap with concepts of social capital. The concepts and indicators featured in this review have been restricted to those not already included under social capital in the OECD Well-being Framework (where previous measurement guidance has been given), and therefore do not include aspects such as trust or volunteering (Table 1.1).

As with connections at the individual level, communal and societal social connectedness is associated with a range of other well-being outcomes. Having strong social ties within a community – for example close relationships with one’s neighbours, community leaders and local service providers – has been shown to enhance community resilience and the ability to react to, and recover from, natural disasters (Office of the U.S. Surgeon General, 2023_[12]; Aldrich and Meyer, 2014_[97]). Feelings of belonging are associated with better physical and mental health (Clark et al., 2024_[98]; Gopalan and Brady, 2020_[99]), and school belonging is associated with better employment and higher education opportunities post-graduation (Parker et al., 2022_[100]). New OECD research illustrates the many ways in which people who experience discrimination face other challenges to their well-being: they are more likely to be at the bottom of the income distribution, have less job security, feel less safe, and may be more likely to engage in unhealthy behaviours such as smoking and excessive alcohol consumption (Hardy and Schraepen, 2024_[101]).

Across surveys in this review, questions that ask respondents how they **relate to a larger community** or group may prompt them to reflect on the degree of social cohesion in their local area. For example, the

⁹ Canada uses a similar question format, but the answer scale ranges from 1 (very unpleasant) to 5 (very pleasant).

¹⁰ Measuring community and societal connections is complex in that the concept of community is multidimensional and evolves over time. Most definitions refer to a group of people engaging in a social interaction within a geographical area who have at least one common tie (Hillery, 1955_[124]; Lee and Kim, 2015_[126]), however with the rise of virtual communication and greater connectivity on both a local and global scale, communities are no longer fixed in geographic terms (Atkinson et al., 2017_[122]). Communities now also refer to online groups, as well as to populations sharing the same race/ethnicity, gender identity or sexual orientation; or to social groups whose members share common beliefs, values or interests (e.g., religious groups, volunteering associations), spread across geographic areas – and who may never meet face-to-face. Additionally, there are many factors that describe how people relate to one another in a communal context, including Indigenous notions of togetherness or family. Better understanding how one defines, and interacts with, identified communities – and whether this happens digitally or in-person – is an important future area for measurement and research.

European Quality of Life survey asks the extent to which survey participants agree with the statement, “I feel close to people in the area where I live” (Table 2.4). Other examples follow a hypothetical route, in which respondents are asked about their view of social harmony in a given community (i.e., a local area, neighbourhood, and so on). For example, the Israeli Social Survey includes the following question: “If the local authority would temporarily ask the residents of your city to economize on electricity or water, do you think people in the area in which you live would cooperate?” (Table 2.4), along with, “Are there people in your neighbourhood who cooperate to improve the neighbourhood?” (Table A A.5).

Indicators referring to a person’s **sense of belonging** to a specific community often identify the group to which one feels (or not) a sense of belonging. For example, the Social Identity module of the Canadian Social Survey asks respondents to indicate their feelings of belonging to: their local community, town, province, Canada, etc. (see Table 2.4 for the full set of options). As another example, the OECD’s Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) survey asks 15-year-old students the extent to which they agree with the following statements: “I feel like I belong at school”, “I feel like an outsider (or left out of things) at school”, and “I feel awkward and out of place in my school” (Table 2.4 and Table A A.5). Across surveys considered, the most common iteration of this indicator is a question about feeling left out of society: a form of this question is included in many of the international surveys included in this scoping work, and a majority of the surveys carried out at the European level (Table A A.5).

Social acceptance and perceived discrimination is the subject of a separate in-depth report by the OECD WISE Centre, which examines the ways that discrimination shapes other well-being outcomes, and the negative effects this has for individuals and society at large (Hardy and Schraepen, 2024_[101]). In current measurement practice, these issues are often captured in surveys via questions that aim to understand the extent of social acceptance of different groups (often measured as being comfortable with having close relationships – or their children having close relationships – with people from different backgrounds), and questions that seek to understand respondents’ self-reported experiences of discrimination, or of harbouring discriminatory views themselves. As an example of the former, the Korean Social Integration Survey asks respondents how receptive they would be to their child marrying a variety of hypothetical partners (see Table 2.4); and the English Community Life Survey asks respondents whether they agree that “their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together” (Table A A.5). Questions focused on discriminatory actions can situate the respondent on either side of the behaviour. For example, the Mexican ENBIARE survey asks respondents if they were “ever discriminated against or looked down upon because of” their skin tone, way they speak, physical appearance, social class, gender, religion, sexual preference, ethnicity, and so on (Table 2.4). Conversely, the World Values Survey asks respondents to indicate any groups they would *not* like to have as neighbours from a list that includes people from a different racial/ethnic backgrounds; people with AIDS; people of different religions; homosexuals; unmarried couples living together, etc. (Table A A.5).

Table 2.4. Community and societal connectedness: Community connectedness, sense of belonging, social acceptance and perceived discrimination

Illustrative examples of questions and answer options from selected surveys, by category

	Example question	Answer options	Survey name
Communal connectedness	To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? I feel close to people in the area where I live.	Strongly agree; agree; neither agree nor disagree; disagree; strongly disagree	European Quality of Life Survey (Europe)
	If the local authority would temporarily ask the residents of your city to economize on electricity or water, do you think people in the area in which you live would cooperate?	Yes; no	Social Survey (ISR)
Sense of belonging	How would you describe your sense of belonging to the following? Your local community, town or city; province; Canada; country of origin; same ethnic / cultural background, online communities you are the most active in.	Very strong; somewhat strong; somewhat weak; very weak; no opinion	General Social Survey – Social Identity (CAN)
	I feel awkward and out of place in my school	Strongly agree; agree; disagree; strongly disagree	OECD Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) Survey (Global)
Social acceptance and perceived discrimination	How do you feel about accepting the following people as your child's spouse? 1. <i>People with disabilities</i> ; 2. <i>Children from grandparent/single parent households, etc.</i> ; 3. <i>foreign immigrants/workers</i> ; 4. <i>ex-offenders</i> ; 5. <i>sexual minorities</i> ; 6. <i>North Korean defectors</i> ; 7. <i>People with different political affiliations to you</i> ; 8. <i>political extremists</i> ; 9. <i>People with lower wealth, income, education, etc. than you</i> ; 10. <i>Someone who has more wealth, income, education, etc. than you</i>	Strongly disagree; disagree; neither agree nor disagree; somewhat agree; strongly agree	Social Integration Survey (KOR)
	In the last 12 months, did you experience discrimination on the basis of 1. <i>your skin tone</i> ? 2. <i>the way you speak</i> ? 3. <i>your weight or height</i> ? 4. <i>the way you dressed or appearance (tattoos)</i> 5. <i>your social class</i> ? 6. <i>where you live</i> ? 7. <i>your religious beliefs</i> ? 8. <i>being a woman or a man (unsure about translation here)</i> 9. <i>your age</i> ? 10. <i>your sexual preference</i> ? 11. <i>your ethnic origin (Indigenous, Afro-Mexican)</i> ? 12. <i>Because of any physical, mental or emotional difficulties (disabilities)</i> ? 13. <i>for having an illness</i> ? 14. <i>your political views</i> ? 15. <i>for being a foreigner</i> ? 16. <i>for any other reason (specify)</i> ?	Yes; no.	National Survey of Self-reported Well-being (MEX)

Note: Refer to Table A A.5 for a full list of example questions.

3. Patterns and gaps in current measurement practice

To better understand the current state of measurement practice in OECD countries, this working paper systematically maps questionnaire items in 49 national and nine international household surveys against the conceptual framework of structure, function, quality and community social connectedness, outlined in Figure 2.2. This exercise encompasses official data collection efforts in all 38 OECD countries,¹¹ along with unofficial data collection from important cross-country surveys often referenced in the literature (Table 3.1). Surveys considered include a combination of general social surveys, thematic surveys¹² and time use surveys. This scoping exercise does not present an exhaustive overview of *all* surveys containing measures of social connectedness across OECD countries,¹³ but rather outlines general patterns and identifies areas for a more comprehensive assessment in the future.

Indicators did not always fit cleanly into one single category – for example, a question asking respondents to identify the *number* of friends they feel *close* to would cover both structural (existence and type of relationship) and functional (support these relationships provide) aspects of social connectedness in the guiding framework. This reflects the fact that most countries' data collection efforts on social connectedness evolved organically over the past decade, often serving different user needs, and not directly with the specific conceptual framework used in this working paper in mind. For the purposes of this exercise, in these instances a single category is chosen to classify each indicator: in the aforementioned example, the Canadian General Social Survey question, “How many close friends do you have, that is, people who are not your relatives, but who you feel at ease with, can talk to about what is on your mind, or call on for help?” is classified as a functional question given that the framing emphasises the social support aspect, rather than the sheer number of friends in the respondent's network.

This scoping exercise does not include background variables that are relevant to social connections, but are already included in most household surveys as a matter of course. This includes basic socio-

¹¹ Table 3.1 explicitly identifies 21 OECD countries, however official data collection efforts in all 38 OECD countries are represented via the inclusion of Eurostat's Survey on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC), which is fielded by all national statistical offices in participating European countries. Some countries collect indicators above and beyond those required by Eurostat, or field questions from ad-hoc modules at a greater frequency than outlined by Eurostat; for this reason, some national SILC surveys include different indicators, and are included as separate surveys (e.g., the Enquête Statistiques sur les ressources et conditions de vie in France, or Luxembourg's SILC survey). OECD countries participating in EU-SILC include Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye and the United Kingdom (until 2018). Country participation may vary year on year.

¹² The category of “thematic survey” groups surveys whose main focus is either aspects of social connections (e.g., Japanese Basic Survey on Human Connection, Korean Social Integration Survey), social cohesion and community (e.g., Dutch Social Cohesion Survey, English Community Life Survey) or surveys that target concepts tangentially related to social connectedness (e.g., health surveys, Colombia's Political Culture Survey).

¹³ Refer to Annex A for more details on the survey selection process.

demographic information, such as household composition (i.e., to identify those who live alone) or marital / partnership status (i.e., to identify trends in marriage, divorce, or partnerships). It also does not include indicators on care work (whether paid or unpaid), some of which may involve providing social support alongside caring for others' needs.¹⁴

The results of this scoping work reveal a couple of key messages – including that while social connections measures are collected in a relatively high share of surveys, and at reasonable levels of frequency, there is work to be done in improving harmonisation.

Table 3.1. Surveys considered in the scoping exercise

Country	Survey name	Survey type
Australia	General Social Survey	General Social Survey
	Time Use Survey	Time Use
Belgium	Time Use Survey	Time Use
Canada	Canadian Social Survey Well-being and Family Relationships Questionnaire + Shared Values and Trust Questionnaire	General Social Survey
	General Social Survey -- Time Use	Time Use
	General Social Survey – Social Identity	General Social Survey
Chile	Encuesta de Bienestar Social (Social Welfare Survey)	General Social Survey
Colombia	Encuesta de Cultura Política (Political Culture Survey)	Thematic Survey
	Social Pulse Survey (Encuesta Pulso Social)	General Social Survey
	Time Use Survey (Encuesta Nacional de Uso del Tiempo (ENUT))	Time Use
Costa Rica	National Time Use Survey (Encuesta Nacional de Uso del Tiempo (ENUT))	Time Use
France	Time Use Survey (Enquête Emploi du temps (EDT))	Time Use
	Statistics on Resources and Living Conditions Survey (Enquête Statistiques sur les ressources et conditions de vie (SRCV))	General Social Survey
	Trajectories and Origins (Enquête Trajectoires et Origines (TeO))	Thematic Survey
	Quality of Life Survey (Enquête sur la qualité de vie)	General Social Survey
Ireland	Irish Health Survey – Carers and Social Support	Thematic Survey
	Irish National Time Use Survey	Time Use
Israel	Social Survey	General Social Survey
Italy	Multipurpose Survey on Households (Indagine Multiscopo)	General Social Survey
	Family and Social Survey (Indagine Famiglie e Soggetti Sociali)	Thematic Survey
	Survey on Citizens and Leisure Time (Indagini Multiscopo Sulle Famiglie I Cittadini e Il Tempo Libero)	Thematic Survey
	Survey on Discrimination (Indagine sulle Discriminazioni in base al genere, all'orientamento sessuale e all'appartenenza etnica)	Thematic Survey
	Time Use Survey (Indagine sull'Uso del Tempo)	Time Use
Japan	Basic Survey on Human Connection (人々のつながりに関する基礎調査)	Thematic Survey
	Survey on Time Use and Leisure Activities	Time Use
Korea	Social Integration Survey (사회통합실태조사)	Thematic Survey
	Social Survey (사회조사)	Thematic Survey
	Time Use Survey (생활시간조사)	Time Use
Luxembourg	European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) – Luxembourg national survey	General Social Survey

¹⁴ Care work in and of itself is not a direct measure of social connectedness, however social and emotional support may be provided in the context of giving or receiving care. As one example illustrating this in the context of a parent-child care-giving relationship, the OECD PISA surveys capture data on 15-year-old students' perceptions of the emotional support they receive from their parents. OECD research shows that adolescents who report receiving more support from their parents also have higher scores on PISA exams, feel a greater sense of school belonging and are more satisfied with their lives (Berger et al., 2024_[118]).

Country	Survey name	Survey type
Mexico	Subjective Well-being Basic Survey (Bienestar subjetivo – BIARE Básico)	Thematic Survey
	National Survey of Self-reported Well-being (Encuesta Nacional de Bienestar Autorreportado (ENBIARE))	Thematic Survey
	National Survey on Time Use (Encuesta Nacional sobre Uso del Tiempo (ENUT))	Time Use
Netherlands	Social Cohesion Survey (Sociale Samenhang)	Thematic Survey
	Time Use Survey (Tijdsbestedingsonderzoek)	Time Use
New Zealand	New Zealand General Social Survey (NZGSS)	General Social Survey
	New Zealand General Social Survey – Social Networks and Support Module	General Social Survey
	Time Use Survey	Time Use
Norway	Norway Quality of Life (Livskvalitet i Norge)	General Social Survey
Poland	Social Cohesion Survey (Badania Spójności Społecznej)	Thematic Survey
Switzerland	Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (SILC) (Erhebung über die Einkommen und Lebensbedingungen)	General Social Survey
United Kingdom	Community Life Survey (CLS)	Thematic Survey
	Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (OLS)	General Social Survey
	Time Use Survey	Time Use
	Understanding Society	General Social Survey
United States	American Time Use Survey (ATUS)	Time Use
	Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)	Thematic Survey
	National Health Interview Survey (NHIS)	Thematic Survey
	Household Pulse Survey	General Social Survey
Europe	European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC)	General Social Survey
	European Social Survey (ESS) (core module)	General Social Survey
	European Social Survey (ESS) (rotating modules)	General Social Survey
	European Quality of Life Survey (EQLS)	General Social Survey
	Living, Working and Covid-19 Survey	Thematic Survey
	Eurobarometer	General Social Survey
Global	Gallup World Poll	General Social Survey
	International Social Survey Programme (ISSP) – Social network module	General Social Survey
	World Values Survey	General Social Survey
	OECD Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) Survey	Thematic Survey

3.1. Message 1: Despite increasing policy attention, loneliness is so far less likely to be measured than other aspects of social connections

Some types of social connectedness are more likely to be collected than others (see Figure 3.1). For instance, across all surveys, indicators relating to spending time with others (structure) are most likely to be included (in 69% of selected surveys) along with indicators of social support (function) (also 69%), followed by indicators on the type of contact (structure) (62%).

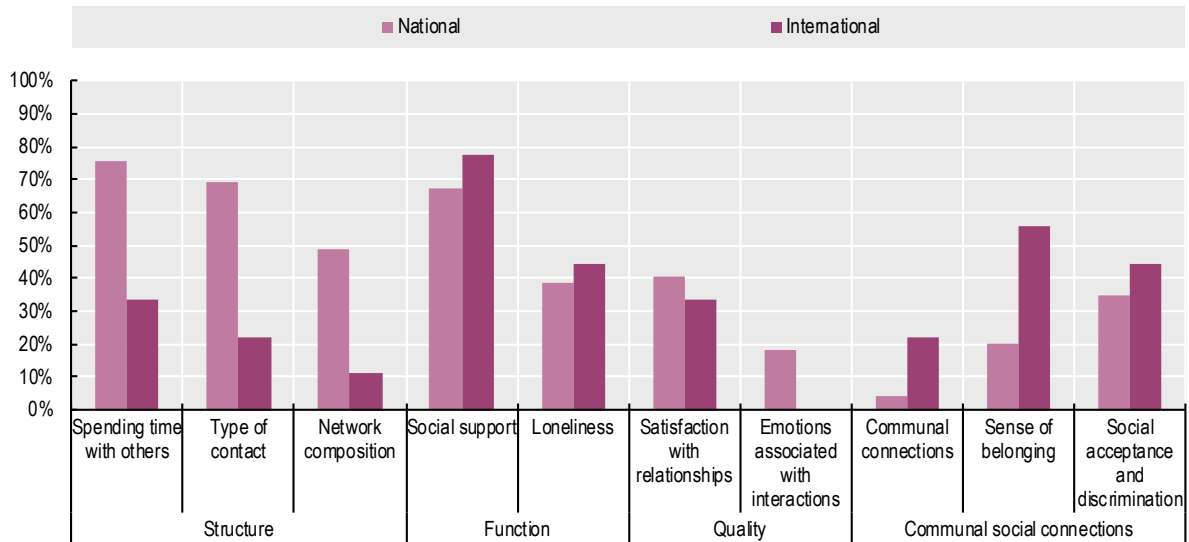
When contrasting national (and thereby official statistical data collection efforts) and international (i.e., non-official) surveys, the differences in coverage are most evident in the structural category. International surveys are comparably less likely to include indicators on time spent with others (33% vs. 76% in national surveys), details on the type of social engagement (22% vs. 69%), and network composition (11% vs. 49%). However, international surveys are more likely to include communal connectedness indicators – especially a sense of belonging (56%, compared to only 20% in national surveys).

Perhaps surprising, given its increasingly central focus in policy and public health conversations, loneliness indicators are so far only included in fewer than half of all surveys considered (40%). Indicators of social support are more than 1.7 times as likely to be included in surveys, as compared to loneliness. This disparity is also reflected in national well-being initiatives across OECD countries (Figure 3.2). Indicators

of loneliness appear in 33% of national well-being initiatives, behind indicators of social support (52%), time spent with others (41%) and satisfaction with relationships (37%).

Figure 3.1. Unevenness in data collection practice across types of social connectedness

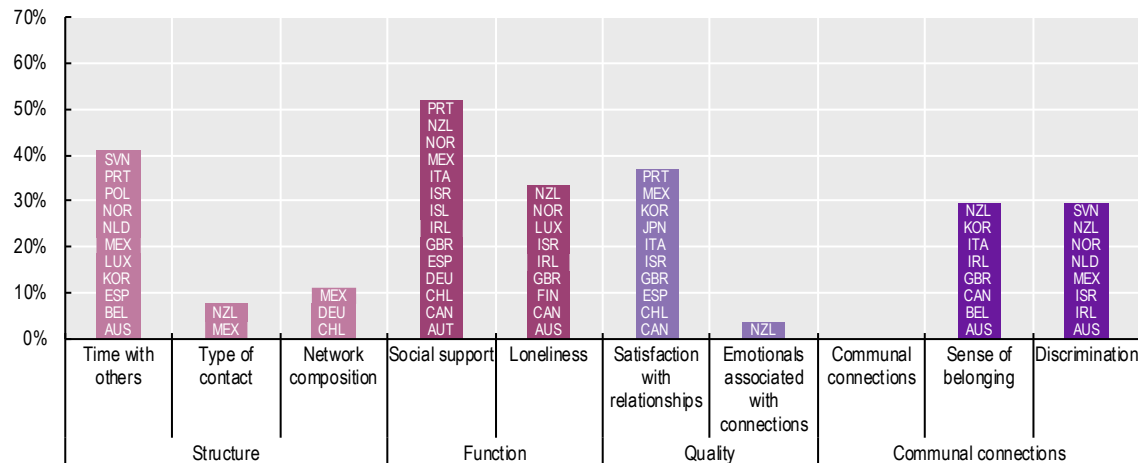
Share of surveys including an indicator of each sub-component of social connectedness, by survey area



Note: For the purposes of this figure, the European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) survey is grouped with national surveys, given that the data are collected by national statistical offices via official data collection procedures. Refer to footnote 11 for details. Refer to Table 3.1 for the full list of surveys considered.

Figure 3.2. Social connections measures are included in 85% of national well-being initiatives across the OECD, however loneliness features in only a third

The share of national well-being approaches that include social connectedness indicators, by type



Note: Refer to Table A.A.1 for a list of national well-being initiatives considered.

3.2. Message 2: There is a lack of harmonisation within concepts

While the results in Figure 3.1 show some degree of convergence around high-level concepts of social connections, this does not mean these are measured with comparable and harmonised indicators. Indeed, in looking at question phrasing, response scales and recall periods used, there is a large degree of variation between surveys – even across surveys fielded within the same country.

This variation is particularly noticeable in approaches to measuring loneliness (Box 3.1), however is true for each aspect of social connections. For example, in the case of social support, some questions conflate all types of support – both material support and social-emotional support – while others try to disaggregate by type of support. Or, some questions are phrased to emphasise the frequency of support received, while others focus on the type of person on whom one can rely. Other questions switch perspectives, asking individuals whether they themselves have helped others, or would be in a position to do so. Many questions use a simple yes/no answer convention, whereas others are structured as the extent to which the respondent agrees with a given statement (refer to Table A A.3 for the full breadth of approaches). In other instances, the question itself may be phrased in broadly comparable ways across countries – such as satisfaction with personal relationships – but answer scales differ. For example, some items feature a 0 (not at all satisfied) to 10 (completely satisfied) response scale (e.g., Mexico’s ENBIARE survey), others a 1-10 scale (France’s Enquête Statistiques sur les ressources et conditions de vie) or even a 5-point Likert scale (Chile’s Social Welfare Survey) (see Table A A.4).

In addition, survey designs do not always clearly distinguish between constructs that the academic evidence base suggests could be important to separate. For example, a simple yes/no question asking respondents whether they often spend time with supportive friends conflates aspects of the frequency of social interactions (structure) with aspects of social support and quality of relationships (function and quality).

Box 3.1. Different approaches to measuring loneliness in official household surveys

Measurement practice around capturing feelings of loneliness varies widely, resulting in approaches that differ in terms of question phrasing, answer options and recall period. Some countries use a battery of items to measure a latent construct of loneliness while others pose direct questions on perceived loneliness. The most commonly used examples of the former include the UCLA and De Jong-Gierveld (DJG) loneliness scales (see Table 2.2 and Table A A.3 for the full set of questions included in each, along with the countries using these scales).

The other approach to measuring loneliness – and the more common tactic employed by official data collectors – is to ask a direct, single-item question. Diverging approaches across different OECD member state surveys include:

- **Israeli Social Survey:**
 - Do you ever feel lonely? *Frequently, sometimes, seldom, never*
 - How long has this situation lasted? *Less than 6 months, 6 months or more and less than 1 year, 1 year or more and less than 2 years, 2 years or more*
- **English Opinions and Lifestyle Survey:**
 - How often do you feel lonely? *Often/always, sometimes, occasionally, hardly ever, never*
- **Colombian Social Pulse Survey:**
 - In the last 7 days have you felt loneliness? *Yes, no*

- **Eurostat European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) survey** (covering 28 OECD countries, but only collected in 2018 and 2022 thus far):¹⁵
 - How much of the time over the past four weeks have you been feeling lonely? *All of the time, most of the time, some of the time, a little of the time, none of the time*

Aside from asking about the prevalence, or intensity, of feelings of loneliness, another dimension is to inquire as to the *persistence* of loneliness. Of the above-listed examples, only the Israeli Social Survey includes a question on how long feelings of loneliness have lasted. Research suggests that chronic loneliness is particularly detrimental to health outcomes, including all-cause mortality, making the duration of feelings of loneliness an important measurement component (Shiovitz-Ezra and Ayalon, 2010_[102]; Shiovitz-Ezra and Ayalon, 2010_[102]).

Measurement choice for quantifying loneliness matters: recent research at the European level following the European Loneliness Survey found that in comparing answers across the UCLA scale, DJG scale and a direct measure of loneliness, prevalence estimates varied considerably (Berlingieri, Colagrossi and Mauri, 2023_[103]). On-going work into the statistical properties of loneliness measures will help to strengthen the evidence base on the validity and reliability of each approach, alongside an assessment of the performance of single-item measures in comparison to longer scales (Paris et al., 2023_[45]).

3.3. Message 3: The type of survey vehicle influences the breadth and depth of information on social connectedness

Different survey vehicles tend to determine which types of social connectedness indicators are included (Figure 3.3). General social surveys often collect a relatively high share of all four high-level components of social connections and are also the most likely to include questions on function, such as loneliness or social support (92%), and on satisfaction with relationships (56%). Thematic surveys – which delve deeper into a specific topic, such as health, or indeed social connections / social cohesion – are slightly more likely than general social surveys to collect indicators on communal connectedness (76% for thematic surveys, versus 68% for general social surveys).

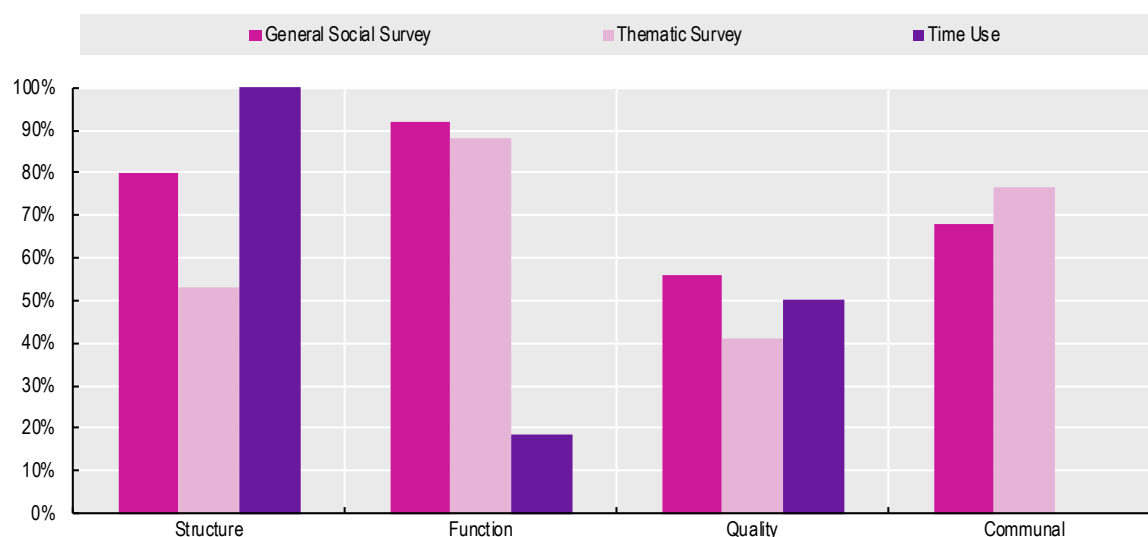
However, Figure 3.3 does not show the *number* of indicators each survey vehicle typically includes, per category. By design, general social surveys tend to cover many topics, hence less space is devoted to any single sub-category. Thematic surveys, on the other hand, have the space to integrate longer survey modules which allow for a more in-depth investigation of any given topic.

Lastly, all time use surveys by default tend to collect data on the structure of social connections – the amount of time individuals spend with different types of contacts, the activities they engage in, and with whom (Figure 3.3). If and when time use surveys integrate questions on experienced well-being – which can then link emotions to specific activities at a granular level – data users are able to capture and link aspects of both function and quality as well. However, thus far only some time use surveys include these types of questions, and of those that do, not all do so regularly. For example, the American Time Use survey is conducted annually, but its integration of experienced well-being indicators is only done on an irregular basis (most recently in 2021).

¹⁵ While the adoption of a single-item loneliness question by the EU-SILC survey has made strides in ensuring the comparability of loneliness measurement among participating OECD countries, there is still space to improve harmonisation efforts beyond EU member states.

Figure 3.3. General social surveys most consistently include all aspects of social connectedness, while time use surveys are particularly well suited to capture structural aspects

Share of selected surveys that collect each type of social connectedness indicator, by survey vehicle



Source: Refer to Table 3.1 for the full list of surveys considered.

3.4. Message 4: Data on social connections are already collected with some degree of frequency, however annual collection of select key indicators would encourage greater relevance to policy makers

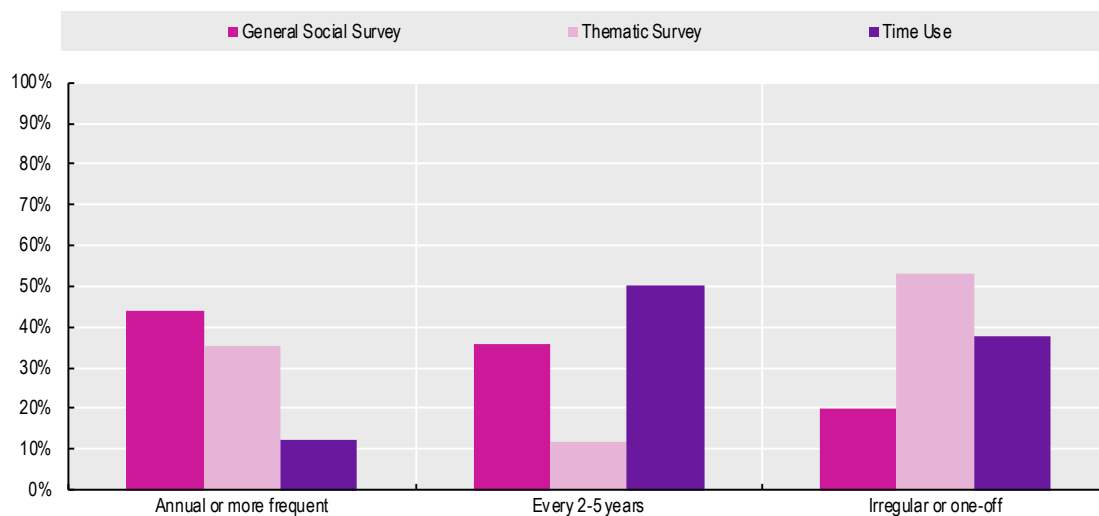
Promisingly, of all the surveys considered in this exercise, one third (33%) are fielded annually or more frequently (Figure 3.4). Yet still, an equal number (33%) are run every 2-5 years – a considerable time lag when trying to monitor trends, assess the impact of shocks like the COVID-19 pandemic or the cost-of-living crisis, or evaluate social connection promotion strategies. A further 34% of surveys are not fielded regularly.

When disaggregating by survey type, both general social surveys and thematic surveys are most likely to be fielded annually (44% and 35%, respectively). Time use surveys are most likely to be run infrequently (every two to five years) (50%), or even less regularly (38%). Many of the thematic surveys with annual frequency of data collection have been introduced relatively recently (or during the COVID-19 pandemic); therefore it will be important to continue their momentum.

Higher frequency data collection provides policy makers with more accurate and up-to-date information on prevalence levels across the population. In addition, in the face of unanticipated shocks – such as the COVID-19 pandemic – the existing data infrastructure provided by regularly-fielded surveys on social connectedness facilitates high quality pre- and post-shock comparisons. Time series are also important in enabling studies to make causal inferences regarding policy changes, thus more frequent data collection can improve the evidence base on the policy relevance and use for these data. However, there are practical considerations as well. Fielding official surveys is costly, and many national statistical offices do not have the resources to include long social connectedness survey modules regularly. Therefore, providing a short list of three to five key indicators, that can be included in existing annual or biennial household surveys, will be an important next step for the measurement agenda. This would not preclude fielding in-depth social connections modules in thematic surveys on a less frequent timeline (e.g., every five years), but rather would complement these efforts.

Figure 3.4. General social and thematic surveys are fielded more frequently than time use surveys

Share of selected surveys fielded with each degree of frequency, by survey vehicle



Source: Refer to Table 3.1 for the full list of surveys considered.

3.5. Message 5: Understanding the impact of digitalisation on social connections will continue to grow in importance for measurement and policy practice alike

Better unpacking how online interactions – and social media – impact the ways people live and work, and by extension their connection with others, is key for developing effective social connection promotion strategies in the face of digitalisation. Indeed, while digital technologies can facilitate interactions between people separated across great distances, and enable individuals to connect with others who share similar interests or attributes who they would likely not meet otherwise, digital technology – and social media in particular – may also fuel feelings of isolation, worsen mental health or induce extremism (Aarts, Peek and Wouters, 2015^[18]; Twenge et al., 2021^[104]; UNDP, 2022^[105]; Office of the U.S. Surgeon General, 2023^[19]; Barbosa Neves et al., 2019^[20]). Evidence from other scholars, however, suggests that the impact of social media use is negligible on life satisfaction and mental health (Orben, Dienlin and Przybylski, 2019^[106]; Vuorre and Przybylski, 2023^[107]). The evidence base is thus far limited; collecting better quality data on the interplay between digital technology and the quantity, quality and diversity of social interactions should therefore be a priority (Office of the U.S. Surgeon General, 2023^[12]; OECD, 2019^[108]).

The rising importance of digital social connections for policy is to some degree reflected in statistical measurement (see Table 3.2 for examples). The most common types of questions refer to the types of digital technologies or social media platforms used (e.g., “In the past 3 months, have you used the Internet for the following communication activities? Participate in a social network (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, etc.)”, Italian Multipurpose Survey on Households) and the frequency of use (e.g., “In the past week, how often have you expressed yourself or communicated through... 1. Facebook? 2. Twitter? 3. Instagram? 4. Whatsapp or Telegram? 5. TikTok?”, Mexican National Survey of Self-reported Well-being). The Canadian Social Survey includes a question about discrimination and digital technology, asking respondents the types of situations in which they have experienced discrimination – for which “on the Internet” is an answer option. Few surveys directly address the impact of online tools on the quality of interactions, however there are some examples. The Israeli Social Survey asks respondents to assess whether “technological means [have] improved or worsened communication with family, friends.”

Ongoing work at the OECD will focus on developing a Digital Well-being Hub (OECD, forthcoming_[109]). This platform aims to better understand the impact of digital technology on wider well-being outcomes by combining evidence from literature reviews, national surveys and original data collection from online visitors to the Hub, about their social media use (both type and frequency) and well-being outcomes – including social connectedness (OECD, forthcoming_[109]). Findings could be used to inform the development of potential future recommendations for national measurement practice.

Table 3.2. Selected indicators on the use of digital technology and social media

Illustrative examples of questions and answer options from selected surveys

Example question	Answer options	Survey name
In what types of situations have you experienced discrimination in Canada in the past 5 years?	[among other options] On the Internet, including social media platforms	Canadian Social Survey - Well-being and Family Relationships Questionnaire + Shared Values and Trust Questionnaire (CAN)
In the last 3 months have you used the Internet to...	Send or receive emails; make video or voice calls over the internet for example via Skype or FaceTime; use social networking sites such as Facebook, Snapchat, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest; none of the above	Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (Internet module) (GBR)
Think now of your contact with all of your family members and close friends. How much of it is through text messages, mobile phones, or other communication devices that use the Internet?	All or almost all of it; most of it; about half of it; some of it; none or almost none of it.	International Social Survey Programme (ISSP) -- Social network module (Global)
Have technological means improved or worsened communication with family, friends?	Improved it; worsened it; no effect on it; no family; not known, refuses to answer.	Social Survey (ISR)
In the past 3 months, have you used the Internet (including app) for the following communication activities? Participate in a social network (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, etc.).	Yes; no.	Multipurpose Survey on Households (ITA)
How do you typically make contact? Please respond to one from the following examples.	1. Face to face; 2. phone; 3. text (SMS); 4. Messenger (Kakao talk, Line, etc.); 4. social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.); 6. email; 7. Blog or cafe (?); 8. Mail; 9. other	Social Integration Survey (KOR)
In a normal year, how often do you actively communicate via social media (Facebook, MySpace, LinkedIn, Twitter, etc.)?	Every day; every week (but not every day); several times a month (but not every week); once a month; at least once a year (but less than once month); never; does not have/ no longer has a family / friends	European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions – National Survey (LUX)
In the past week, how often have you expressed yourself or communicated through... 1. Facebook? 2. Twitter? 3. Instagram? 4. Whatsapp or Telegram? 5. TikTok?	Number of times	National Survey of Self-reported Well-being (MEX)
What type of contact do you have with family members who do not live with you / friends or relatives?	In person; e-mail or post; messages, such as WhatsApp or chat; call or video call, such as via WhatsApp or Zoom	Social Cohesion Survey (NLD)
To what extent does the Internet help you in the following situations: Establishing and maintaining contacts (e.g. via websites social – Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.; by mail electronic; via instant messengers – Messenger, Skype, MS Teams, WhatsApp, Webex, etc.)?	It helps a lot / It helps / To a small extent Helps / Hardly at all or not at all / Not applicable, I don't use it from the Internet for this purpose	Social Cohesion Survey (POL)
When you use social media / play online games / visit forums and message boards, do you feel like you're a member of a community feel socially isolated from others?	Strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree?	National Center for Health Services (NCHS) Rapid Surveys Systems –Online Connectedness (USA)

4. The path forward: Towards full measurement recommendations

Given the importance of social connections in driving labour market, education and health outcomes, the societal costs to (growing) disconnection are large. Promoting good quality connections (and avoiding unintended side effects of policy interventions on people's ability to connect with others) are therefore growing considerations for government – but these considerations can only be integrated into policy effectively if they are supported by high quality data. The results of this scoping exercise are encouraging, in that they show that not only are all OECD member countries active in the field of social connections measurement, all are also already measuring multiple aspects of social connections in official household surveys. Yet, more work remains.

It is clear that *some important aspects of social connectedness are not yet as frequently included in household surveys* compared to others. For example, despite increasing policy attention, loneliness is thus far included in fewer than half of all surveys considered. Indicators covering the quality of social connectedness are also less likely to appear in surveys, and their addition would provide a useful supplement to the existing objective data on time spent with others. These data can be included in general social or thematic surveys through question sets asking respondents about their satisfaction with personal relationships or perceptions of relationship conflict and strain; they can also be integrated into time use surveys by including a battery of questions on emotional states that can be tied to specific activities. Feelings of belonging and communal connectedness are well integrated in international surveys, but less so in national efforts.

The review has also pointed to the fact that *maintaining or improving the frequency of data collection* of measures of social connection will be key to increase their usefulness (including for policy). While one third of the surveys considered are fielded at least annually, other data collection exercises are less frequent, and some are fielded only irregularly or at a single point in time with no intention to conduct (or fund) future iterations. This is especially true for time use surveys, which would have the potential to be a rich data source on all aspects of social connections, especially if they include questions on experienced well-being and affective states.

But, which exact questions should data producers prioritise and integrate into their surveys? Given resource constraints and the fact that space in household surveys is limited, it will be important to *develop a concise set of recommended indicators*, based on robust evidence on both their statistical quality, and their policy relevance. Consensus on such a core harmonised set would also help with comparability (across countries, and across surveys) – as this paper has established, so far, there is little convergence in measurement practice and different surveys capture data on “loneliness”, “social support”, “frequency of social interactions”, etc. in a variety of ways.

There is precedent for producing measurement guidelines. As a part of its work to move the statistical agenda on well-being forward, the OECD has already published measurement guidance on important aspects of people's well-being for which little international guidance existed. Previous OECD measurement recommendations, featuring a core subset of recommended measures for data producers to use in their

household surveys, have focused on subjective well-being (OECD, 2013^[110]), trust (OECD, 2017^[111]), the quality of the working environment (OECD, 2017^[112]) and population mental health (OECD, 2023^[113]).

This scoping review provides a first step towards establishing international guidance on measuring social connections, by providing an illustrative snapshot of current practice of official data producers. A full set of measurement recommendations would involve a thorough assessment of the statistical properties of the different question items or scales used; including an analysis on the validity, reliability and cross-group comparability of different approaches; evidence on how survey mode affects social connection estimates; as well as guidance on good practice in interpretation and reporting. Rigorous analysis on these questions is currently being undertaken by scholars in the field, and any future measurement work at the OECD will be done in collaboration with these efforts (Paris et al., 2023^[45]). Alongside this assessment of statistical properties, further analysis and guidance on which components of social connectedness are most policy relevant (e.g. are the strongest unique determinants for other aspects of well-being; or are the best performing summary concepts for different aspects of connectedness) is needed to guide the selection of indicators. This exercise would also involve specific guidance for different government agencies – for example, a social connections measure that is a particularly strong determinant for longevity may be more relevant for public health policy, whereas a measure that predicts democratic attitude formation would be of high interest from a public governance perspective.

Annex A. Selection criteria for surveys included in this working paper

This working paper includes indicators from 49 national and nine international household surveys, which are listed in Table 3.1. The surveys included do *not* represent a systematic mapping of all data collection efforts relating to social connections in every OECD country; rather, this reflects an illustrative snapshot of the most relevant surveys either currently, or recently, fielded.

All national surveys included in this exercise are official data, collected by OECD member state governments, rather than private, or academic surveys. Official surveys are high quality, are almost always nationally representative, and generally have large sample sizes which ensure their robustness and enable comparisons across disparate population groups. The sourcing process was in part based on a detailed data bank compiled by the OECD in 2013 as a part of larger project on defining social capital (OECD, 2013^[114]); information was then updated by searching for keywords relating to “social inclusion”, “social cohesion” and “discrimination” in the target language on national statistical office websites. Additionally, the largest nationally representative general social survey and time use survey in each country were added, if not already included, and additional surveys were supplemented based on recent mappings conducted for other OECD publications on population mental health and subjective well-being (OECD, 2023^[113]; Mahoney, 2023^[115]). Efforts were made to include surveys of all types (general social surveys, thematic surveys and time use surveys) from across different geographic areas. There were no strict criteria for the time horizon considered, however older surveys that have long been discontinued were typically not included, in favour of surveys that are either on-going, or have been fielded within the last 5-10 years.

The international surveys considered in this paper reflect data sources that the OECD often uses in its international benchmarking of key well-being indicators, for example in its *How's Life?* series of publications (OECD, 2020^[22]). While the OECD's well-being work primarily uses official data sources from national governments, in areas where harmonisation is lacking, non-official high-quality international sources such as the Gallup World Poll are used to broaden country coverage. For this reason, these international surveys are included in this mapping of current social connections measurement practice.

An important part of the selection process is direct engagement with national statistical offices of OECD member countries. A draft version of this working paper was shared with delegates of the OECD's Committee on Statistics and Statistical Policy, asking that they provide additional examples of social connectedness indicators in official survey vehicles as is relevant. The mapping exercise was updated based on written and verbal feedback from delegates.

Table A A.1. National well-being approaches currently in use by OECD countries

Country	Well-being approach	Institutional home	Began
Australia	Measuring What Matters	The Treasury	2023
Austria	How's Austria?	Statistics Austria	2012
Belgium	Sustainable Development Indicators	Federal Planning Bureau	2022*
Canada	Quality of Life Framework	Department of Finance Canada	2020
Chile	Social Wellbeing Survey	Social Observatory Division, Ministry of Social Development and Family	2021
Finland	National Sustainable Development Monitoring Network	Prime Minister's Office, Finnish National Commission on Sustainable Development	2017
France	New Indicators of Wealth	Institut national de la statistique et des études économiques (INSEE)	2015
Germany	Well-being in Germany – What matters to us	The Federal Government	2015
Iceland	Indicators of Well-being	Statistics Iceland	2019
Ireland	First & second report on a well-being framework for Ireland	National Economic and Social Council	2021
Israel	Well-being, Sustainability and National Resilience Indicators	Central Bureau of Statistics	2015
Italy	Measures of Equitable and Sustainable Well-being (full set)	Istituto Nazionale di Statistica (IStat)	2013
Japan	Well-being Dashboard	Cabinet Office	2019
Korea	Quality of Life Indicators in Korea	Statistics Korea	2013
Latvia	Latvia 2030	Sustainable Development Strategy of Latvia, Cross-Sectoral Coordination Centre (PKC)	2012
Luxembourg	PIBien-être and the Index of Well-being	Institut national de la statistique et des études économiques du Grand-Duché de Luxembourg (STATEC)	2017
Mexico	Indicadores de bienestar	National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI)	2014
Netherlands	Monitor of Well-being and SDGs	Statistics Netherlands (CBS)	2017
New Zealand	Indicators Aotearoa New Zealand	Stats NZ Tatauranga Aotearoa	2019
Norway	Quality of Life in Norway	Statistics Norway	2020
Poland	Responsible Development Index	Polish Institute of Economics	2019
Portugal	Statistics Portugal Well-being Index	Statistics Portugal	2013
Slovenia	National Development Strategy 2030	Government Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy	2017
Spain	Quality of Life Indicators	Instituto Nacional de Estadística (INE)	2019
Sweden	New Measures of Well-being	Statistics Sweden	2017
Switzerland	Measuring Well-being	Federal Statistical Office	2014
United Kingdom	Measures of National Well-being	Office for National Statistics (ONS)	2010

Note: *The Belgian Federal Planning Bureau's annual reporting on beyond GDP indicators was renamed to "Sustainable Development Indicators" in 2022, however the initiative has existed since 2016. For countries currently operating multiple well-being approaches at a national level, only the most relevant (i.e., most similar to the OECD well-being framework) is considered; similarly, those headed by national statistical offices are considered given this the focus on official statistics practice.

Source: Mahoney (2023^[115]), "Subjective well-being measurement: Current practice and new frontiers", *OECD Papers on Well-being and Inequalities*, No. 17, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/4e180f51-en>.

Table A A.2. Structure: Questions and answer options by category

A. Structure – Time spent with others		
Question	Answer options	Survey name
Would you like to spend more time alone?	Yes / No	General Social Survey -- Time Use (CAN)
How many people visit you at home or you visit their home on a regular basis?	Insert the number of people. Minimum 0, maximum 10.	Political Culture Survey (COL)
How often are you in contact with your neighbours?	Daily, at least once a week, but not daily, at least once a month, but not weekly, less than once a month, rarely or never	Social Cohesion Survey (NLD)
During the past two weeks, how many times have you gotten together with <i>the members of your nuclear or extended family/friends</i> ?	More than once; once; not at all.	Trajectories and Origins Survey (FRA)
N.B. Separate questions for each item in italics.		
How often do you go out?	More than five days per week; 3 to 4 days per week; 1 to 2 days per week; less than a day per week; I do not go out.	Basic Survey on Human Connection (JPN)
On a typical weekday, how many people do you come into contact with?	Number	Social Integration Survey (KOR)
Last week, did you spend time <i>attending parties (club/bars) / going to the cinema / visiting family, friends or acquaintances</i> ?	Yes; no.	National Survey of Self-reported Well-being (MEX)
N.B. Separate questions for each item in italics.		
Are you currently in a relationship?	Yes; no.	National Survey of Self-reported Well-being (MEX)
How often are you in contact with <i>one or more relatives who do not live with you / your friends or relatives/ neighbours</i>	Daily, at least once a week, but not daily, at least once a month, but not weekly, less than once a month, rarely or never	Social Cohesion Survey (NLD)
N.B. Separate questions for each item in italics.		
How often are you in contact with your neighbours?	Daily, at least once a week, but not daily, at least once a month, but not weekly, less than once a month, rarely or never	Social Cohesion Survey (NLD)
Would you like to have more frequent contacts with <i>one or more family members who do not live with you / friends or relatives / neighbours</i> ?	Yes; no.	Social Cohesion Survey (NLD)
N.B. Separate questions for each item in italics.		
How often do you chat to your neighbours, more than to just say hello?	On most days, once or twice a week, once or twice a month, less than once a month, never, don't have any neighbours, don't know	Community Life Survey (GBR)
Percentage of adults who chat with their neighbours at least once a month.	[Percentage]	Community Life Survey (GBR)
In a typical week, how often do you get together with friends in person (outside of school, college, university or work)	Every day or almost every day / Several times a week / About one a week / Less often	Understanding Society (GBR)
In a typical week, how often do you get together with friends online (including on your mobile phone, on social media, or through online gaming)?	Every day or almost every day / Several times a week / About one a week / Less often	Understanding Society (GBR)
In the past 7 days how many times have you eaten an evening meal together with the rest of your family who live with you?	None / 1-2 times / 3-5 times / 6-7 times	Understanding Society (GBR)
How often have you seen family or friends who do not live with you in person in the last 3 months?	Every day; at least once a week, at least once a month, at least once in the last	General Social Survey (AUS)
How often do you meet socially with friends, relatives or work colleagues?	Never; less than once a month; once a month; several times a month; once a week; several times a week; every day.	European Social Survey (Europe)

Compared to other people of your age, how often would you say you take part in social activities?	Much less than most; less than most; about the same; more than most; much more than most.	European Social Survey (Europe)
How often do you have direct face-to-face contact (by phone, the Internet or by post) with the following people living outside your household?	Every day or almost every day; at least once a week; one to three times a month; less often; never.	European Quality of Life Survey (Europe)
Frequency of getting together with family and relatives or friends.	Daily; every week (not every day); several times a month (not every week); once a month; at least once a year (less than once a month); never.	European Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (2022, 2015, 2006 modules) (Europe)
Frequency of contacts with family and relatives or friends.	Daily; every week (not every day); several times a month (not every week); once a month; at least once a year (less than once a month); never.	European Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (2022, 2015, 2006 modules) (Europe)
In the last 12 months, have you seen any member of your family (apart from those you live with, if applicable)?	Yes, every day; yes once a week or more (not every day); yes once a month or more (not every week); yes once a month; yes once a year (less than once a month); no, never.	Quality of Life Survey (FRA)
Constructed social isolation index (several questions, threshold of isolation is defined as one contact per month)		Statistics on Resources and Living Conditions Survey (FRA)
In the past 12 months, have you seen <i>a member of your family (excluding those living with you) / friends?</i> N.B. Separate questions for each item in italics.	Every day (or almost), one or several times a week (but not every day), several times per month (but not every week), once a month, once or several times a year (but not every month), never, non-applicable (if the respondent has no family)	Statistics on Resources and Living Conditions Survey (FRA)
In your current life, what would you like to spend MORE time on, LESS time on? (among others) <i>Your family/ your friends and relationships/ associations and civic life</i> N.B. Separate questions for each item in italics.	Much more time; a little more time; the same time; a little less time; much less time; does not know/not concerned	Statistics on Resources and Living Conditions Survey (FRA)
How often do you have contact with <i>your parent / brother / sister / adult child / or other family member / closer friend you have contact with most frequently?</i> N.B. Separate question for each category in italics.	Daily; several times a week; once a week; two or three times a month; once a month; several times a year; less often; never.	International Social Survey Programme – Social network module (Global)
How often do you go out to eat / drink with three or more friends / acquaintances who are not family members?	Daily; several times a week; once a week; two or three times a month; once a month; several times a year; less often; never.	International Social Survey Programme – Social network module (Global)
Please think about the person from your home town or region of origin / religious community, other than your family members, you have contact with most frequently. How often do you have contact with that person, either <i>face-to-face, by phone, Internet or any other communication device?</i> N.B. Separate question for each item in italics.	Daily; several times a week; once a week; two or three times a month; once a month; several times a year; less often; never.	International Social Survey Programme – Social network module (Global)
Please indicate about how many people do you have contact with on a typical weekday irrespective of whether you know them or not. Include anyone you chat with, talk to, or text, either face-to-face, by phone, Internet or any other communication device.	0-4 people; 5-9; 10-19; 20-49; 50-99; 100 or more.	International Social Survey Programme – Social network module (Global)
How often do you meet with your friends in your free time?	Every day; more than once a week; once a week; a few times a year; never; I have no friends.	Multipurpose Survey on Households (ITA)

<p>How often do you see each other? <i>Partner, mother/father of partner, child, grandchild, mother, father, brother, sister</i></p> <p>N.B. Separate question for each item in italics.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Every day 2. A few times a week 3. Once a week 4. A few times a month (less than 4) 5. A few times a year 6. Never 	Family and Social Survey (ITA)
<p>How often do you talk to [CONTACT] on the <i>phone / video chat / text</i> ?</p> <p>Contact: <i>Partner, mother/father of partner, child, grandchild, mother, father, brother, sister</i></p> <p>N.B. Separate question for each item in italics.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Every day 2. A few times a week 3. Once a week 4. A few times a month (less than 4) 5. A few times a year 6. Never 	Family and Social Survey (ITA)
<p>In a normal year, how often do you meet <i>family members who do not live with you / friends</i>?</p> <p>N.B. Separate question for each item in italics.</p>	Every day; every week (but not every day); several times a month (but not every week); once a month; at least once a year (but less than once month); never; does not have/ no longer has a family / friends	European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions -- National survey (LUX)
<p>In a normal year, how often do you have contacts with <i>family members who do not live with you / friends</i> via phone, letter, fax, SMS, Internet (Skype, Facebook, FaceTime) or other means of communication?</p> <p>N.B. Separate question for each item in italics.</p>	Every day; every week (but not every day); several times a month (but not every week); once a month; at least once a year (but less than once month); never; does not have/ no longer has a family / friends	European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions -- National survey (LUX)
<p>For the next few questions please think about your <i>friend / neighbour / members of those clubs, groups or organisations</i>.</p> <p>In the last four weeks how often have you: talked in person with them; had video conversations such as skype with them; talked over the telephone or mobile phone with them; had written conversations, such as text messages, email or postal mail with them?</p> <p>N.B: Separate question for each item in italics.</p>	Every day; at least once a week; at least once a fortnight; at least once in the last four weeks; not at all.	New Zealand General Social Survey – Social Networks and Support Module (NZL)
<p>In the last seven days, how many times did everyone in your household eat a meal together?</p>	From 0 to 99.	New Zealand General Social Survey – Social Networks and Support Module (NZL)
<p>In the past four weeks, how often have you, talked in person with any one of your relatives; had video conversations, such as skype or FaceTime with any of them; talked over the phone with any of them; had written conversations, such as text messages, email or postal mail with any of them.</p>	Every day; at least once a week; at least once a fortnight; at least once in the last four weeks; not at all.	New Zealand General Social Survey (NZL)
<p>How would you describe the amount of contact you have with your neighbours?</p>	Too much; about the right amount of contact; not enough contact.	New Zealand General Social Survey (NZL)
<p>How often do you spend time with good friends?</p>	Daily, every week but not daily, every month but not weekly, a few times a year, less often, have no good friends	Norway Quality of Life (NOR)
<p>How often do you spend time with family?</p>	Daily, every week but not daily, every month but not weekly, a few times a year, less often, have no good friends	Norway Quality of Life (NOR)
<p>Can you meet friends, family, loved ones for a drink or a meal at least once a month regardless of where you meet?</p>	Yes; no.	Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (CHE)
<p>How often do you see or visit your <i>mother/father children siblings</i>? This refers to the parent(s) not living with the respondent.</p>	Daily / Several times a week / About once a week / Several times a month (2-3 times) / About once a month / Several times a year	Social Cohesion Survey (POL)

N.B. Separate question for each item in italics.	/ Les than a few times a year / Hardly or not at all / Respondent does not know father/mother or father/mother is dead	
How often do you contact your <i>mother/father</i> <i>children</i> <i>siblings</i> in other ways, such as by phone, over the Internet?	Daily / Several times a week / About once a week / Several times a month (2-3 times) / About once a month / Several times a year / Les than a few times a year / Hardly or not at all / Respondent does not know father/mother or father/mother is dead	Social Cohesion Survey (POL)
N.B. Separate question for each item in italics.		
How often do you see or socially visit friends, acquaintances, colleagues at work?	Daily / Several times a week / About once a week / Several times a month (2-3 times) / About once a month / Several times a year / Les than a few times a year / Hardly or not at all / Respondent does not know father/mother or father/mother is dead	Social Cohesion Survey (POL)
During the past week, did you talk at least once (including on the phone) with someone outside the household (excluding conversations about official, administrative matters, etc.)?	Yes / No	Social Cohesion Survey (POL)
Please tell me how often in your free time: A. <i>do you visit acquaintances, family or friends or host them at your home?</i> B. <i>you meet friends, family or friends in a cafe, in a restaurant, pub, bowling alley, club?</i> M. <i>do you follow social networking sites on the Internet (e.g. Facebook, Instagram)?</i>	For A and B: Once a week or more often / Once or several times a month / Once or several times a year / Less than once a year / Never or almost never for M: Every day or almost every day / Once or several times a week / Less than once a week / Never or almost never	Social Cohesion Survey (POL)
N.B. Separate question for each item in italics.		
Were you alone or together with somebody you know?	Mark "yes" by crossing Alone; With other household members: partner, parent, household member up to 9 years old, other household member; Other persons that you know	Time Use Survey (BEL)
The next questions will deal with your use of time for a 24-hour period starting at 4:00 AM. You will be asked to provide details about each of your activities done [yesterday/during this past [diary day]]. Each activity should be listed separately - avoid grouping activities together. For examples and more information, click here. Please report all transportation causing a change of location (including walking). What were you doing?	01: Sleeping 02: Own personal care 03: Caring for household members 17 years of age or younger 04: Caring for household members 18 years of age or older 05: Eating or drinking 06: Regular household tasks (e.g., preparing meals, dishwashing, indoor house cleaning, laundry, pet care) 07: Occasional household tasks (e.g., do-it-yourself maintenance or construction, packing or unpacking luggage, cutting grass, snow removal, gardening) 08: Travel or going from place to place 09: Paid work activities 10: Studying or learning 11: Shopping 12: Socializing or communicating 13: Unpaid help or care provided to other households or the community, organization-based volunteering or other unpaid work 14: Civic or religious activities or community social events 15: Sports participation or physical exercise 16: Culture, sports events, hobbies, leisure or outdoor activities 17: Mass media activities (reading, television, music, technology) 18: Waiting time, doing nothing or other activities	General Social Survey -- Time Use (CAN)
Who was with you?	Select all that apply. 01: On my own 02: Spouse, partner 03: Household children (less than 15 years old) 04: Household children (15 years or older) 05: Parents or parents-in-law 06: Other household adults 07: Other family members from other households 08: Friends	General Social Survey -- Time Use (CAN)

	09: Colleagues or classmates 10: Other people	
Yesterday, at TIME, what were you doing?	1. Sleeping 2. Grooming (self) 3. Watching TV 4. Working at main job 5. Working at other job 6. Preparing meals or snacks 7. Eating and drinking 8. Cleaning kitchen 9. Laundry 10. Grocery shopping 11. Attending religious service 12. Paying household bills 30. Don't know/ Can't remember 31. Refusal/ None of your business	American Time Use Survey (USA)
Who was with you? / Who accompanied you?	0. Alone 1—39. Household members and non-household children 50. All household members 51. Parents 52. Other non-HH family members < 18 58. Other non-HH adults 18 and older (including parents-in-law) 59. Boss or manager* 60. People whom I supervise* 61. Co-workers* 62. Customers*	
In a typical week, how often do you talk on the telephone with family, friends, or neighbors?	Less than once a week, 1 or 2 times a week, 3 or 4 times a week, 5 or more times a week	Household Pulse Survey (USA)
How often do you get together with friends or relatives?	Less than once a week, 1 or 2 times a week, 3 or 4 times a week, 5 or more times a week	Household Pulse Survey (USA)

B. Structure – Type of social contact

Question	Answer options	Survey name
What technology did you use for the main activity? (e.g., landline phone, smartphone, laptop, games console)	[Record technology]	Time Use Survey (AUS)
During this time period, did you use any information technology device such as a tablet, smartphone, computer or laptop?	Yes; no.	General Social Survey -- Time Use (CAN)
What activities do you currently partake in? Please indicate activities which involve exchanging with people (multiple selections possible).	Activities such as Parent-Teacher-Association/ Resident association/neighbourhood association; activities supporting children/ disabled people/ seniors outside of your own family; volunteering activities other than those mentioned above; activities related to sports, hobbies, learning, of self-improvement (including school clubs); other activities (such as alumni clubs or religious activities); you do not partake in any specific activity.	Basic Survey on Human Connection (JPN)
Interactions with family members and friends who do not live with you...	Meeting in person and talking; talking over the phone (including video phone); fix phone/ fax; social media (e.g., LINE); e-mail or chat mail.	Basic Survey on Human Connection (JPN)
How do you typically make contact? Please respond to one from the following examples.	1. Face to face; 2. phone; 3. text (SMS); 4. Messenger (Kakao talk, Line, etc.); 4. social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.); 6. email; 7. Blog or cafe (?); 8. Mail; 9. other	Social Integration Survey (KOR)
In the past week, how often have you expressed yourself or communicated through... 1. <i>Facebook</i> ? 2. <i>Twitter</i> ? 3. <i>Instagram</i> ? 4. <i>Whatsapp</i> or <i>Telegram</i> ? 5. <i>TikTok</i> ?	Number of times	National Survey of Self-reported Well-being (MEX)
N.B. Separate question for each item in italics.		
What type of contact do you have with <i>family members who do not live with you / friends or relatives</i> ?	In person; e-mail or post; messages, such as WhatsApp or chat; call or video call, such as via WhatsApp or Zoom	Social Cohesion Survey (NLD)
N.B. Separate question for each item in italics.		
On average how often do you: meet up in person with family members or friends; speak on the phone or video or audio with family members or friends; email or write to family members or friends; exchange texts or instant messages with family members or friends?	More than once a day, once a day, 2 to 3 times per week, about once a week, about once a fortnight, about once a month, less often than once a month, never, don't know	Community Life Survey (GBR)
In the last three months, have you used any of these other types of contact with your family or friends? Please select all that apply.	Phone or video calls; text messaging or instant messaging; email or post; none of the above.	General Social Survey (AUS)

Thinking of all the relatives/friends you had contact with in the past month, how often did you do the following? <i>See any of your relatives in person; talk with any of your relatives by the phone; communicate with any of your relatives by email or online social networks (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, instant message; Skype and FaceTime).</i>	Every day; a few times a week; once a week; 2 or 3 times a month; once a month; not in the past month.	General Social Survey – Social Identity (CAN)
N.B. Separate question for each item in italics.		
In the past month, outside of work or school, how many new people did you meet either face-to-face or online? Of these {number} people, how many did you meet on the Internet? Include social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, etc.	Insert the number of people.	General Social Survey – Social Identity (CAN)
To what extent would you say that online and mobile communication makes you feel closer to one another?	From 00 (not at all), to 10 (completely)	European Social Survey (Europe)
Frequency of communication via social media. The frequency with which the respondent participates actively in social networking sites, such as community-based web sites, online discussions forums, chat rooms and other social spaces online.	Daily; every week (not every day); several times a month; once a month; at least once a year (less than once a month); never.	European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (2015 module) (Europe)
In the past 12 months, how often have you communicated with <i>members of your family (excluding those living with you) / friends</i> via telephone, SMS, the Internet, mail, etc.?	Every day (or almost), one or several times a week (but not every day), several times per month (but not every week), once a month, once or several times a year (but not every month), never, not applicable (if the respondent has no family)	Statistics on Resources and Living Conditions Survey (FRA)
N.B. Separate question for each item in italics.		
How many of these people (whom you have contact with on a typical weekday) do you see face-to-face on a typical weekday?	Almost all of them; most of them; about half of them; some of them; none or almost none of them.	International Social Survey Programme (ISSP) -- Social network module (Global)
Think now of your contact with all of your family members and close friends. How much of it is through text messages, mobile phones, or other communication devices that use the Internet?	All or almost all of it; most of it; about half of it; some of it; none or almost none of it.	International Social Survey Programme (ISSP) -- Social network module (Global)
In the past 12 months, how many times have you participated in the following activities? Going out to a cultural, art or sport event, such as a movie, play exhibition, fair, or sports game; participation in activities together with other people, such as: song, dance, or group sports; participation in games such as bridge, chess or backgammon; a visit with relatives or friends or hospitality in your home; spending time with friends in a park, restaurant, shopping center or another public place; participation in an online discussion group such as a chat or internet forum.	Did not participate at all; once up to nine times, ten times or more.	Social Survey (ISR)
In what way do you usually maintain social connections?	Meetings; telephone connection; social networks; messaging apps, such as Skype, WhatsApp; blogs; SMS messages; video conversations; email; chat rooms; online multiplayer games.	Social Survey (ISR)
Did you use the internet for discussion groups or social media, such as chat groups, forums, Facebook, Skype, WhatsApp, Twitter?	Yes; no.	Social Survey (ISR)
Have technological means improved or worsened communication with family, friends?	Improved it; worsened it; no effect on it; no family; not known, refuses to answer.	Social Survey (ISR)
Do you participate in a special interest group on the Internet, such as virtual social groups, local area groups, or neighbourhood groups?	Yes; no.	Social Survey (ISR)
In the past 3 months, have you used the Internet (including app) for the following communication activities? Participate in a social network (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, etc.).	Yes; no.	Multipurpose Survey on Households (ITA)
How often do you keep in touch with [CONTACT] via messages (e.g. using SMS, WhatsApp, Telegram, Messenger, etc.)?	1. Every day 2. A few times a week 3. Once a week	Family and Social Survey (ITA)

Contacts: <i>Partner, mother/father of partner, child, grandchild, mother, father, brother, sister</i>	4. A few times a month (less than 4) 5. A few times a year 6. Never	
In a normal year, how often do you actively communicate via social media (Facebook, MySpace, LinkedIn, Twitter, etc.)?	Every day; every week (but not every day); several times a month (but not every week); once a month; at least once a year (but less than once month); never; does not have/ no longer has a family / friends	European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions – National survey (LUX)
What is the one main way you stay in contact with <i>supportive family members / supportive friends / the members of association(s) you belong to</i> ?	Talking in person; video conversations; telephone; written communication; no contact.	New Zealand General Social Survey – Social Networks and Support Module (NZL)
N.B. Separate question for each item in italics.		
Do you use social networking websites to stay in contact with <i>supportive family members / supportive friends</i> ?	Yes; no.	New Zealand General Social Survey – Social Networks and Support Module (NZL)
N.B. Separate question for each category in italics.		
In the last 3 months have you used the Internet to...	Send or receive emails; make video or voice calls over the internet for example via Skype or FaceTime; use social networking sites such as Facebook, Snapchat, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest; none of the above (Spontaneous only)	Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (Internet module) (GBR)
Do you belong to any social networking websites?	Yes / No	Understanding Society (GBR)
On a normal week day, that is Monday to Friday, how many hours do you spend chatting or interacting with friends through social media, gaming websites or apps?	None / Less than an hour / 1-3 hours / 4-6 hours / 7 or more hours	Understanding Society (GBR)
How often do you contact these people for social purposes in other ways, e.g., by phone, over the Internet?	Daily / Several times a week / About once a week / Several times a month (2-3 times) / About once a month / Several times a year / Less than a few times a year / Hardly or not at all / Respondent does not know father/mother or father/mother is dead	Social Cohesion Survey (POL)
To what extent does the Internet help you in the following situations: <i>Establishing and maintaining contacts (e.g. via websites social – Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.; by mail electronic; via instant messengers – Messenger, Skype, MS Teams, WhatsApp, Webex, etc.)?</i>	1. It helps a lot 2. It helps 3. To a small extent helps 4. Hardly at all or not at all it helps although I use it 0. Not applicable, I don't use it from the Internet for this purpose	Social Cohesion Survey (POL)
Please tell me if and when was the last time that: <i>A. you met in-person a person met on the Internet</i>	Yes, within the last 3 months Yes, from 3 to 12 months ago Yes, over a year ago No, never	Social Cohesion Survey (POL)
In a typical week, how often do you text or message with family, friends, or neighbors?	Less than once a week, 1 or 2 times a week, 3 or 4 times a week, 5 or more times a week	Household Pulse Survey (USA)

C. Structure – Network composition

Question	Answer options	Survey name
Who did you do this [ACTIVITY] for? (e.g., partner (43 yrs), son (5 yrs), self, work, friend (32 yrs), household, a charity, sports club)	[Record person]	Time Use Survey (AUS)
You mentioned the people you visit or who visit you frequently, in addition to the people who helped you or would try to help you look for a job.	Insert the number of people. Minimum 0, maximum 10.	Political Culture Survey (COL)

Of the total group of people, how many of them meet the following description: family members, men, university graduates, participate in a religious group or activity, are foreigners, live on the same block, have a job, you have lent them money or they have lent you money in the last 12 months, have the same political opinions as you, are of the same ethnic group as you, feel they have lost economic opportunities because of foreign workers.		
How often do you usually have social gatherings with... <i>1. people who are or were your neighbours? 2. people from your church or religious congregation? 3. peers you attend or attended school with? 4. people with whom you practice or used to practice the same sport activity? 5. People you work or worked with? 6. Family members 7. Friends or your partner? 8. other friendships?</i>	Number of times	National Survey of Self-reported Well-being (MEX)
N.B. Separate question for each category in italics.		
How often do you interact with people whose origins are different from yours? Including face-to face meetings, telephone and written contacts as well as contacts via, for example, e-mail, text, chat, or by sending messages.	Daily; weekly; monthly; less than monthly; never	Social Cohesion Survey (NLD)
How often do you interact with people at least 5 years older or younger than you?	Daily; weekly; monthly; less than monthly; never	Social Cohesion Survey (NLD)
How often do you interact with people with a different level of education from you?	Daily; weekly; monthly; less than monthly; never	Social Cohesion Survey (NLD)
What proportion of your friends are of the same ethnic group as you?	1. All the same as me; More than a half; About a half; Less than a half; Don't have any friends; Don't know; Prefer not to say	Community Life Survey (GBR)
What proportion of your friends are of the same religious group as you?	1. All the same as me; 2. More than a half; 3. About a half; 4. Or less than a half; 5. Not part of any faith group; Don't know; Prefer not to say	Community Life Survey (GBR)
What proportion of your friends are of the same age group as you?	1. All the same as me; 2. More than a half; 3. About a half; 4. Or less than a half; Don't know; Prefer not to say	Community Life Survey (GBR)
What proportion of your friends have a similar level of education to you?	1. All the same as me; 2. More than a half; 3. About a half; 4. Or less than a half; Don't know; Prefer not to say	Community Life Survey (GBR)
In the last 12 months, have you mixed socially with people from different religious groups in any of the following places? By 'mixed socially', we mean interacting with someone more than just to say hello. Please choose all that apply.	1. At your home or their home 2. At work, school or college 3. At your child's crèche, nursery or school 4. At a pub, café or restaurant 5. At a group, club or organisation you belong to (for example, a sports club or social club) 6. At the shops 7. At a place of worship 8. In public parks 9. In public buildings (for example, community centres or libraries) 10. I haven't mixed socially with people from different religious groups [EXCLUSIVE] 11. Other (type in) -8. Don't know	Community Life Survey (GBR)
In the last 12 months, have you mixed socially with people from different ethnic groups in any of the following places? By 'mixed socially', we mean interacting with someone more than just to say hello. Please choose all that apply	1. At your home or their home 2. At work, school or college 3. At your child's crèche, nursery or school 4. At a pub, café or restaurant 5. At a group, club or organisation you belong to (for example, a sports club or social club) 6. At the shops 7. At a place of worship 8. In public parks	Community Life Survey (GBR)

	9. In public buildings (for example, community centres or libraries) 10. I haven't mixed socially with people from different ethnic groups [EXCLUSIVE] 11. Other (type in) -8. Don't know	
How many close friends would you say you have?	[Number]	Understanding Society (GBR)
These days, it is possible to make new friends via the Internet. Do you have any close friends that you have never met in person?	Yes / No	Understanding Society (GBR)
Not counting your close friends or relatives, approximately how many other friends do you have? Include acquaintances as well as online friends. Of these other friends, how many live in the same city or local community as you?	1; 2-19; 20-49; 50-79; 80 or more; no other friends.	General Social Survey – Social Identity (CAN)
In the past month, outside of work or school, how many new people did you meet either face-to-face or online? Include people you had not met before and who you intend to stay in contact with.	Insert the number of people.	General Social Survey – Social Identity (CAN)
Of all the friends you had contact with in the past month, approximately how many have the following characteristics?	Have the same mother tongue as you; come from an ethnic group that is visibly different from yours; have the same religion as you; are of the same sex as you; have the same sexual orientation as you; identify with the same gender as their sex assigned at birth; are around the same age group as you.	General Social Survey – Social Identity (CAN)
Of all the friends you had contact with in the past month, how many have roughly the same level of education as you?	All; most; about half a few; none; don't know.	General Social Survey – Social Identity (CAN)
Of all the friends you had contact with in the past month, how many have a similar level of household income as you?	All; most; about half a few; none; don't know.	General Social Survey – Social Identity (CAN)
Of those friends who have a different level of education than you, how would you describe their level of income?	Most have a higher level than you; most have a lower level than you; half have a higher, half have a lower level; don't know.	General Social Survey – Social Identity (CAN)
Do you know any people with the following jobs? By "knowing" a person, we mean that you know them by name and well enough to contact them. <i>Bus driver; senior executive of a large company; home or office cleaner; hairdresser or barber; human resources or personnel manager; lawyer; car mechanic; nurse; police officer; school teacher.</i> N.B. Separate question for each category in italics.	Yes; no.	General Social Survey – Social Identity (CAN)
Thinking about your close friends whom you can ask for help, how many friends would you say you have?	Insert the number of people.	Social Welfare Survey (CHL)
Of those close friends you just mentioned, how many of them have the same level of education as yours?	Insert the number of people.	Social Welfare Survey (CHL)
How often do you make new friends or acquaintances?	Never; rarely; sometimes; often; very often.	International Social Survey Programme (ISSP) – Social network

		module (Global)
Do you know a woman of a man who is: <i>a bus/lorry driver; a senior executive of a large company; a home or office cleaner; a human resource manager/personnel manager; a lawyer; a car mechanic; a nurse; a police officer; a school teacher.</i> N.B. Separate question for each category in italics.	For each option, respondents can select: family or relative; close friend; someone I know; no one.	International Social Survey Programme (ISSP) – Social network module (Global)
Do you have close friends who are not of the same <i>gender / age / religion / level of religiosity / origin or ethnicity / level of education / level of income</i> as you? N.B. Separate question for each item in italics.	Yes; no.	Social Survey (ISR)
Where did you get to know your close friends? <i>School; army; post-secondary studies including university, college, yeshiva; workplace; place of residency, community; online social media such as Facebook; through family, spouse or friends; another place.</i> N.B. Separate question for each item in italics.	Yes; no.	Social Survey (ISR)
How many of the friends who help and support you, <i>are about the same age as you, are the same sex as you; are the same ethnicity as you; have about the same level of income as you?</i> N.B. Separate question for each item in italics.	None; a few; about half; most; all; don't know; refused.	New Zealand General Social Survey – Social Networks and Support Module (NZL)
Are there people outside of your immediate family about whom you can say that they are your friends, even if you don't see each other often?	Yes / No	Social Cohesion Survey (POL)
Are there people among your friends, family and neighbors who... would you consider <i>poor / rich?</i> N.B. Separate question for each item in italics.	Yes / No	Social Cohesion Survey (POL)

Table A A.3. Function: Questions and answer options by category

A. Function – Social Support		
Question	Answer options	Survey name
The following questions concern help and services received from someone outside your household. You might have paid something for this help or these services, but it should not have been provided by a private firm or a public institution. Did you or any other member of your household receive help or services from someone who is not a member of your household at any time during the last 4 weeks? (child-care; care for sick and elderly)	Yes / No	Time Use Survey (BEL)
How many times did you receive this kind of help or services during the last 4 weeks? (child-care; care for sick and elderly)	[Record number]	Time Use Survey (BEL)
Last time you received this kind of help or services, did you pay for it? (child-care; care for sick and elderly)	Yes / No	Time Use Survey (BEL)
How many relatives do you have who you feel close to, that is, who you feel at ease with, can talk to about what is on your mind, or call on for help? (not living with the respondent) Of these {number} relatives you feel at ease with, how many live in the same city or local community as you?	Insert the number of people.	General Social Survey – Social Identity (CAN)

How many close friends do you have, that is, people who are not your relatives, but who you feel at ease with, can talk to about what is on your mind, or call on for help? Of these {number} close friends, how many live in the same city or local community as you?	Insert the number of people.	General Social Survey – Social Identity (CAN)
Do you have relatives, friends or neighbours you can ask for help? (Moral, material or financial help).	Yes; no; don't know; refuse.	Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (CHE)
Have you received or requested any of the following forms of support since the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic? Any form of support from relatives or friends.	Have received; have requested but not yet received; have requested but the request was rejected; no/not applicable to me.	Living, Working and Covid-19 Survey (Europe)
1. During the past 12 months, have you had someone to take care of your children from time to time and for free, to help you out? 2. Who helped you out?	1. Yes; no. 2. One of your children, your father or mother, the father or mother of your partner or ex-partner, another family member, a friend, a neighbour, a colleague, other.	Trajectories and Origins Survey (FRA)
How many people do you feel close enough to you that you could count on them if you had a serious personal problem?	None; 1 or 2; 3 to 5; 6 or more.	Irish Health Survey – Carers and Social Support (IRL)
How easy would it be to get practical help from neighbours if you needed it?	Very easy; easy; possible; difficult; very difficult.	Irish Health Survey – Carers and Social Support (IRL)
Degree of concern and interest others show in what you are doing, degree of ease of getting practical help from neighbours.	A lot of concern or interest; some concern or interest; uncertain; little concern or interest; no concern or interest.	Irish Health Survey – Carers and Social Support (IRL)
Do you have someone to turn to for advice when you feel anxious or worried?	Yes; no.	Basic Survey on Human Connection (JPN)
Who do you ask for advice (multiple selections possible)?	Family members/relatives; friends and acquaintances; resident or neighbourhood association / neighbours; members of your workplace/school (such as colleagues/ teachers); administrations (national or local); private agencies such as non-profit organizations/volunteer groups; other; I do not know (including cases where the advice centre consultant is unknown).	Basic Survey on Human Connection (JPN)
Can someone help you in the following situations (family members, relatives, friends, neighbours, work colleagues, etc. who do not live with you), and if so, how many people? <i>1. You are sick and need help with your housekeeping 2. You need to borrow a large sum of money 3. You are feeling discouraged or depressed and need someone to talk to</i> N.B. Separate question for each item in italics.	Yes there is/are (x) person/people, No	Social Survey (KOR)
Who would you turn to first for help when you encounter the following situations? <i>you need financial help/you are sick and need help getting/around/ you are stressed or depressed</i> N.B. Separate question for each item in italics.	1. Family or relatives; 2. close friends; 3. workplace associates, such as co-workers; 4. neighbours; 5. government or public service organisations; 6. private professional organisations; 7. online community; 8. You don't ask for help anywhere; 9. other	Social Integration Survey (KOR)
In the event of an emergency or need, do you think you will always be able to count on the help of <i>family members / friends or non-family members</i> ? N.B. Separate question for each item in italics.	Yes; no; no family	National Survey of Self-reported Well-being (MEX)

Currently, is there a person in your life... <i>1. to whom you give affection?</i> <i>2. from whom you receive affection?</i>	Yes; no.	National Survey of Self-reported Well-being (MEX)
N.B. Separate question for each item in italics.		
I make friends easily at school	Strongly agree; agree; disagree; strongly disagree	OECD Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) Survey (Global)
Other students seem to like me.	Strongly agree; agree; disagree; strongly disagree	OECD Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) Survey (Global)
Generally, I borrow things and exchange favours with my neighbours.	Definitely agree, tend to agree, tend to disagree, definitely disagree	Community Life (GBR) Survey
Is there anyone who you can really count on to listen to you when you need to talk?	Yes, one person; yes, more than one person; no one.	Community Life Survey (GBR)
How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements? <i>If I needed help, there are people who would be there for me; if I wanted company to socialise, there are people I can call on.</i>	Definitely agree; tend to agree; tend to disagree; definitely disagree.	Community Life Survey (GBR)
N.B. Separate question for each item in italics.		
Percentage of adults who borrow things and exchange favours with their neighbours.	[Percentage]	Community Life Survey (GBR)
Do you feel supported by your family, that is the people who live with you?	I feel supported by my family in most or all of the things I do / I feel supported by my family in some of the things I do / I do not feel supported by my family in the things I do	Understanding Society (GBR)
Suppose you felt upset or worried about something and you wanted to talk about it. Who would you turn to first within your family? Please select one answer only.	Mum or stepmum / Dad or stepdad / A brother or sister (or step-brother/sister) / Another relative living with you / Another relative not living with you / No-one within my family	Understanding Society (GBR)
Thinking about any information, advice or guidance which you may have received over the past 12 months about making decisions for your future job or career, have you used or spoken to any of the following...	Friends and/or relatives / Teacher, lecturer or tutor / School or college careers advisor / Local Connexions Service Local Careers Service / Apprenticeships website / The National Career Service / Find a Job Service / Job Centre Plus / Anyone else	Understanding Society (GBR)
How often do you get the social and emotional support you need?	Always, usually, sometimes, rarely, or never.	National Health Interview Survey (USA)
Other than parents or adults living in [NAME]'s home, is there at least one adult in [NAME]'s school, neighbourhood, or community who makes a positive and meaningful difference in [his/her] life?	Yes; no.	National Health Interview Survey (USA)
How often do you get the social and emotional support you need?	Always, usually, sometimes, rarely, or never	Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (USA) and National Health Interview Survey – Teen (USA)
How much can you rely on your friends for help if you have a serious problem? How much can you open up to your friends if you need to talk about your worries?	1. A lot 2. Some 3. A little 4. Not at all	National Health Interview Survey – Teen (USA)

How much can you rely on your parents or guardians for help if you have a serious problem? How much can you open up to your parents or guardians if you need to talk about your worries?		
Other than parents or adults living in your home, is there at least one adult in your school, neighborhood, or community who makes a positive and meaningful difference in your life?	Yes / No	National Health Interview Survey – Teen (USA)
Do you have difficulty making friends?	1. No difficulty 2. Some difficulty 3. A lot of difficulty 4. Cannot do at all	National Health Interview Survey – Teen (USA)
Compared with 12 months ago, would you say that you now receive more social and emotional support, less social and emotional support, or about the same?	More, less, about the same	National Health Interview Survey (USA)
How often does CHILD get the social and emotional support his/her needs?	Always, usually, sometimes, rarely, or never	National Health Interview Survey (USA)
How often do you get the social and emotional support you need?	Always, Usually, Sometimes, Rarely, Never.	Household Pulse Survey (USA)
In the last four weeks, have you had any contact with supportive neighbours?	Every day; at least once a week; at least once a fortnight; at least once in the last four weeks; not at all.	New Zealand General Social Survey – Social Networks and Support Module (NZL)
1. If you needed to, could you ask someone for support in times of crisis? 2. Who would you ask for this support?	1. Yes; no. 2. Family member; friend; neighbour, work colleague; community, charity or religious organisation; local council or other government services; health legal or financial professional; other.	General Social Survey (AUS)
Do you have any friends or family members that you feel you can confide in?	Yes; no.	General Social Survey (AUS)
How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statement? When I need someone to help me out, I can usually find someone.	Strongly agree; somewhat agree; neither agree nor disagree; somewhat disagree; strongly disagree.	General Social Survey (AUS)
How often would you say you have people you can depend on to help you when you really need it?	1: Always; 2: Often; 3: Sometimes; 4: Rarely; 5: Never	Canadian Social Survey - Well-being and Family Relationships Questionnaire + Shared Values and Trust Questionnaire (CAN)
Do you know someone who: <i>can assist you in the care of children, dependents or sick persons in the home; can lend you money in emergency; can help you with legal or financial queries or formalities; can help you to get a job?</i> N.B. Separate question for each item in italics.	Yes, someone outside the home; yes someone inside the home; both; don't know anyone.	Social Welfare Survey (CHL)
During the last 7 days have you done any of the following activities? (select one or more options)	Spoken with friends or family; drunk alcohol or smoked cigarettes; performed physical activity; took part in artistic activities; asked for help to a psychologist or therapist; focus on an activity you had to do; none of the above.	Social Pulse Survey (COL)
How many people, if any, are there with whom you can discuss intimate and personal matters?	None; one; two; three; four to six; seven to nine; 10 or more.	European Social Survey (Europe)
To what extent do you receive help and support from people you are close to when you need it?	From 00 (not at all) to 06 (completely)	European Social Survey (Europe)

<p>From whom would you get support in each of the following situations? <i>If you needed help around the house when ill; if you needed advice about a serious personal or family matter; if you needed help when looking for a job; you were feeling a bit depressed and wanting someone to talk to; if you needed to urgently raise some money (equivalent to monthly national at risk-of-poverty-threshold) to face an emergency; if you needed help in looking after your children</i> For each situation, choose the most important source of support.</p> <p>N.B. Separate question for each item in italics.</p>	<p>A member of your family / relative; a friend, neighbour, or someone else, who does not belong to your family or relatives; a service provider, institution or organisation; nobody; don't know; refuse.</p>	<p>European Quality of Life Survey (Europe)</p>
<p>In the last 12 months, have you, or someone close to you, received regular (at least several times a week) help or care from any of the following people? Family members, friends or neighbours in your/this person's home; someone outside the formal health and care services who was paid for their help.</p>	<p>Yes, me; yes, someone close to me; no.</p>	<p>European Quality of Life Survey (Europe)</p>
<p>Please indicate for each of the statements which is closest to how you have feeling over the last two weeks: I have felt lonely.</p>	<p>All of the time; most of the time; more than half of the time; less than half of the time; some of the time; at no time.</p>	<p>European Quality of Life Survey (Europe)</p>
<p>Ability to ask any relative, friend or neighbour for help.</p>	<p>Yes; no.</p>	<p>European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (2006 modules) (Europe)</p>
<p>Ability to ask a neighbour for help.</p>	<p>Yes; no.</p>	<p>European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (2015, 2013 modules) (Europe)</p>
<p>Persons who have someone to discuss personal matters. The variable refers to the presence of at least one person the respondent can discuss personal matters with.</p>	<p>Yes; no.</p>	<p>European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (2015, 2013 modules) (Europe)</p>
<p>Material help, non-material help – two separate questions.</p> <p>The variable refers to the respondent's possibility to ask for help (any kind of help: moral, material or financial) from relatives, friends or neighbours.</p> <p>The question is about the possibility for the respondent to ask for help whether they need it or not. Only relatives, friends, neighbours or other people who don't live in the same household as the respondent should be considered.</p>	<p>Yes; no.</p>	<p>European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (2018 module) (Europe)</p>
<p>If you need to talk to someone for advice or because you're feeling depressed, you can contact...</p>	<p>Your partner; a family member; a colleague; a friend; a neighbour; someone else; no one.</p>	<p>Quality of Life Survey (FRA)</p>
<p>Do you have family members, friends, or neighbours to whom you can ask a service or moral support?</p>	<p>Yes; no.</p>	<p>Statistics on Resources and Living Conditions Survey (FRA)</p>
<p>Do you have someone with whom you can discuss personal matters?</p>	<p>Yes; no; not applicable (the respondent has no family, friends, or neighbours)</p>	<p>Statistics on Resources and Living Conditions Survey (FRA)</p>
<p>In the past 12 months, did you get moral support or financial or material help from a member of your family, a friend, a relative, or a neighbour? (respondent is then asked the type of help)</p>	<p>Yes; no, I would have needed it but I did not ask for it; no, I would have needed it but I did not get it; no, I did not need it; not applicable (has no family, friends, or neighbours)</p>	<p>Statistics on Resources and Living Conditions Survey (FRA)</p>

In the past 12 months, do you think you could have, in case of need, gotten, from a family member, a friend, a relative, or a neighbour:	Financial help; non financial but material help; moral support; you think you could not have gotten any of them	Statistics on Resources and Living Conditions Survey (FRA)
If you were in trouble, do you have relatives or friends you can count on to help you whenever you need them, or not?	Yes; no.	Gallup World Poll (Global)
Do you have relatives or friends who are living in another country whom you can count on to help you when you need them, or not?	Yes; no.	Gallup World Poll (Global)
In the past 12 months, did this household receive help in the form of money or goods from another individual living inside this country, living in another country, both, or neither?	Living inside this country; living in another country; both; neither.	Gallup World Poll (Global)
<i>Who would you turn to first to help you with a household or a garden job that you can't do yourself / help you around your home if you were sick and had to stay in bed / be there for you if you felt depressed and wanted to talk about it / give you advice about family problems / enjoy a pleasant social occasion with / help you if you needed to borrow a large sum of money / help you if you needed to find a job / help you with administrative problems or official paperwork / help you if you needed to find a place to live/look after you if you were seriously ill?</i>	Close family member; more distant family member; close friend; neighbour; someone I work with; someone else; no one.	International Social Survey Programme (ISSP) – Social network module (Global)
N.B. Separate question for each item in italics.		
If you were in trouble, are there people whose help you could count on?	Yes; no.	Social Survey (ISR)
<i>Who would you turn to first for support if you need advice on important personal or family matters / for assistance if you are ill / for support if you feel a bit depressed and need to talk to someone / for financial support (other than a bank loan)?</i>	My spouse; my parents; my children; another family member; a friend; a professional; another person; no one.	Social Survey (ISR)
N.B. Separate question for each item in italics.		
Excluding relatives (his or her spouse/partner), are there people who live near you and on which ones can you count in case of need?	Yes, a person or a family; yes, some people or some families; no.	Multipurpose Survey on Households (ITA)
For the past 12 months, your family has had a need for cash assistance or loans to support expenses related to family needs? Help from family, relatives; help from friends; loans, bank loans; other.	For each option, respondents can select yes; no.	Multipurpose Survey on Households (ITA)
Were you helped financially by your parents or other relatives for the housing you moved in together?	1. Yes, by your parents 2. Yes, by the in-laws 3. Yes, from other relatives 4. Yes, from other people (not relatives) 5. No, from no one. We relied only on our financial resources	Family and Social Survey (ITA)
In addition to parents, children, siblings, grandparents and grandchildren (children of children), are there other relatives that you care about particularly and/or can count on?	1. No, I do not have any relatives that I care about and/or can count on 2. Yes, I have other relatives that I care about and/or can count on 3. Yes, I have other relatives that I care about, but cannot count on	Family and Social Survey (ITA)
Do you have one or more friends you can count on in case of need?	1. No 2. Yes How many? _ _ 3. I don't know	Family and Social Survey (ITA)
Excluding relatives (yours or your partner's), are there people who live close to you and who you can count on in case of need?	1. No 2. Yes, one person or one family 3. Yes, several people or families	Family and Social Survey (ITA)
Overall, how many people do you feel are close enough to you that you can count on them in case of serious personal problems?	1. None 2. 1 or 2 3. 3 to 5 4. 6 or more	Family and Social Survey (ITA)
In the last 4 weeks, have you provided any of the following help free of charge to people (relatives and non-relatives) who do not live with you?	1. Financial help 2. Health services (injections, medications, etc.) 3. Care, assistance of adults (help with washing, dressing, eating, etc.)	Family and Social Survey (ITA)

	<p>4. Care, assistance of children</p> <p>5. Help with household tasks even outside the home of the person being helped (washing, ironing, shopping, preparing meals, etc.)</p> <p>6. Company, accompaniment, hospitality</p> <p>7. Completion of bureaucratic procedures (going to the post office, the bank, etc.)</p> <p>8. Help with carrying out extra-domestic work</p> <p>9. Help with studying</p> <p>10. Help in the form of food, clothing, etc.</p> <p>11. Help with using the internet and/or digital tools</p> <p>12. Other help to people (Please specify)</p> <p>13. No, no help to people</p>	
In the last 4 weeks, have you received any of the following help free of charge from people (relatives and non-relatives) who do not live with you?	<p>1. Financial help</p> <p>2. Health care services (injections, medications, etc.)</p> <p>3. Care, assistance of adults (help with washing, dressing, eating, etc.)</p> <p>4. Care, assistance of children</p> <p>5. Help with household tasks even outside your home (washing, ironing, shopping, preparing meals, etc.)</p> <p>6. Company, accompaniment, hospitality</p> <p>7. Completion of bureaucratic procedures (going to the post office, bank, etc.)</p> <p>8. Help with carrying out extra-domestic work</p> <p>9. Help with studying</p> <p>10. Help in the form of food, clothing, etc.</p> <p>11. Help to use the internet and/or digital tools</p> <p>12. Other (Please specify)</p> <p>13. None</p>	Family and Social Survey (ITA)
Do you have family members, friends, or neighbours whom you can ask for help?	Yes / no / doesn't know / no response	European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions – National survey (LUX)
Do you know someone (family, friends, neighbours, outside of your household) who could help you materially, financially, or morally?	Yes; No; No family, no friends, no neighbours	European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions – National survey (LUX)
Do you have someone to whom you can talk about personal matters if you wish to?	Yes; No	European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions – National survey (LUX)
Do you have members of your family, friends or neighbours you could ask for help? (Moral, material or financial help)	Yes, no, does not know, no answer	European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions – National survey (LUX)
How many <i>family members / friends</i> help and support you? N.B. Separate question for each item in italics.	From 0 to 99.	New Zealand General Social Survey – Social Networks and Support Module (NZL)

<p>1. Who would the respondent turn to if he/she <i>felt down or a bit depressed and wanted to talk with someone about it / unexpectedly got some really good news and wanted to share this with someone?</i></p> <p>N.B. Separate question for each item in italics.</p> <p>2. How easy or hard was it to get the support from that person?</p>	<p>1. A family member I live with; a family member I do not live with; someone else I live with; a friend who doesn't live with me; a neighbour; a work colleague; a professional; an organisation; someone else; I have no one to ask for help; I would not ask for help.</p> <p>2. Very easy; easy; sometimes easy; sometimes hard; hard very hard.</p>	New Zealand General Social Survey – Social Networks and Support Module (NZL)
<p>1. Who would the respondent turn to if he/she <i>went away and needed help with things like collecting mail, looking after pets, or checking the home / had the flu and had to stay in bed for a few days and needed help / needed to borrow \$2,000 in an emergency urgently needed a place to stay?</i></p> <p>N.B. Separate question for each item in italics.</p> <p>2. How easy or hard was it to get the support from that person?</p>	<p>1. A family member I live with; a family member I do not live with; someone else I live with; a friend who doesn't live with me; a neighbour; a work colleague; a professional; an organisation; someone else; I have no one to ask for help; I would not ask for help.</p> <p>2. Very easy; easy; sometimes easy; sometimes hard; hard very hard.</p>	New Zealand General Social Survey – Social Networks and Support Module (NZL)
<p>1. Who would the respondent turn to if he/she <i>needed help finding a job / inherited some shares in a company and needed advice on what to do with those shares?</i></p> <p>N.B. Separate question for each item in italics.</p> <p>2. How easy or hard was it to get the support from that person?</p>	<p>1. A family member I live with; a family member I do not live with; someone else I live with; a friend who doesn't live with me; a neighbour; a work colleague; a professional; an organisation; someone else; I have no one to ask for help; I would not ask for help.</p> <p>2. Very easy; easy; sometimes easy; sometimes hard; hard very hard.</p>	New Zealand General Social Survey – Social Networks and Support Module (NZL)
In the last four weeks, have you had any contact with supportive neighbours?	Every day; at least once a week; at least once a fortnight; at least once in the last four weeks; not at all.	New Zealand General Social Survey – Social Networks and Support Module (NZL)
How would you describe the amount of contact you have with your supportive neighbours?	Too much; about the right amount of contact; not enough contact.	New Zealand General Social Survey – Social Networks and Support Module (NZL)
Which family members help and support you?	Partner/spouse; parents; brothers and/or sisters; children; uncles, aunts and/or cousins; in-laws; other family members; no family who provide help or support; don't like to ask family members for help or support.	New Zealand General Social Survey (NZL)
Suppose you felt down or a bit depressed and wanted to talk with someone about it. How easy or hard would it be to talk to someone?	Very easy; easy; sometimes easy/sometimes hard; hard; very hard.	New Zealand General Social Survey (NZL)
Suppose you urgently needed a place to stay. How easy or hard would it be to ask someone you know to stay with them?	Very easy; easy; sometimes easy/sometimes hard; very hard.	New Zealand General Social Survey (NZL)
How many neighbours do you have to help and support you?	0 to 999.	New Zealand General Social Survey (NZL)
How many people are so close to you that you can count on them if you get into major personal problems?	None, 1 or 2, 3 to 5, 6 or more	Norway Quality of Life (NOR)
People to rely on	[Percentage]	Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (GBR)
If there was a need, would you ask your to your <i>mother/father children siblings distant relatives for: material assistance (financial, in-kind) spiritual support, help in getting things done?</i>	Yes / No	Social Cohesion Survey (POL)
N.B. Separate question for each item in italics.		

How are your relations with your neighbours?	<p>A. we visit each other on name days, family celebrations, we spend leisure time together, etc.</p> <p>B. we provide each other with small favors, such as borrowing something, doing shopping, watch a child, etc.</p> <p>C. we don't keep in closer contact, but we say "good morning" to each other</p> <p>D. it happens that for various reasons there are unpleasant conversations with neighbors, incidents, arguments</p>	Social Cohesion Survey (POL)
<p><i>Suppose you are sick with the flu and have to spend several days in bed, you need help around the house, doing shopping, etc. Who would you turn to for help in the first place? Would it be/would it:</i></p> <p><i>Suppose you feel sad(-ish) and depressed(-ish) and you would like/would like to talk to someone. To whom would/should you turn to first?</i></p> <p>N.B. Separate question for each item in italics.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. husband/partner, wife/partner 2. parents, in-laws 3. children (including sons and sons-in-law), grandchildren 4. siblings 5. other relative(s) of you or your spouse/partner(s) 6. acquaintance/acquaintance, friend/friend 7. neighbor/neighbor 8. someone from social welfare 9. someone who is paid to help 10. someone else 11. have no such person/to anyone ... 	Social Cohesion Survey (POL)
In case of financial difficulties, are there people you can count on for help?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Yes, mainly family 2 Yes, mainly on acquaintances, friends 3. yes, both on family and on acquaintances, friends 4 No 	Social Cohesion Survey (POL)

B. Function – Loneliness

Question	Answer options	Survey name
In the last 7 days have you felt... select one or more options.	Worry or nervousness; tiredness; irritability; loneliness ; sadness; headache or stomachache; difficulties in sleeping; Accelerated heart beats despite not having realized no physical effort; That it was impossible for you to feel positive emotions; none of the above.	Political Culture Survey (COL)
How have you been feeling over the last two weeks? I have felt lonely.	All of the time; most of the time; more than half of the time; less than half of the time; some of the time; at no time.	Living, Working and Covid-19 Survey (Europe)
Do you ever feel that you are out of touch with other people?	Never; almost never; sometimes; always.	Basic Survey on Human Connection (JPN)
<p>UCLA Loneliness Scale:</p> <p>Do you ever feel left out?</p> <p>Do you sometimes feel isolated from other people?</p> <p>How often do you feel lonely?</p>	Never; almost never; sometimes; always.	Basic Survey on Human Connection (JPN)
How do you feel about [each of] the following: (1) I am lonely (followed by suicidal thoughts and no one knows me well)	Not at all, not so much, slightly yes, very much so	Social Integration Survey (KOR)
<p>De Jong Gierveld Loneliness Scale:</p> <p>To what extent do the following statements apply to you as you are lately?</p> <p>1. I experience a general sense of emptiness.</p> <p>2. There are plenty of people I can lean on when I have problems</p>	Yes; Somewhat; No	Social Cohesion Survey (NLD)

3. There are many people I can trust completely 4. I miss having people around 5. There are enough people I feel close to 6. I often feel rejected		
I feel lonely at school	Strongly agree; agree; disagree; strongly disagree	OECD Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) Survey (Global)
1. The three-item UCLA Loneliness scale: How often do you feel that you lack companionship? How often do you feel left out? How often do you feel isolated from others? 2. The direct measure of loneliness: How often do you feel lonely?	1. Hardly ever or never; some of the time; often. 2. Often/always; some of the time; occasionally; hardly ever; never.	Community Life Survey (GBR)
How often do you feel lonely?	Often/always; some of the time; occasionally; hardly ever; never.	Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (GBR)
UCLA Loneliness Scale: How often in the past 4 weeks have you felt that... you lack companionship; you are isolated from others; you are left out?	Never; rarely; sometimes; often; very often.	Understanding Society (GBR)
How often do you feel lonely?	Often/always; some of the time; occasionally; hardly ever; never.	Understanding Society (GBR)
How often do you feel socially isolated from others?	Always, usually, sometimes, rarely, never, don't know, refused	Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (USA)
How often do you feel lonely?	Hardly ever or never, some of the time, often	Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (USA)
How often do you feel lonely?	Always, Usually, Sometimes, Rarely, Never	Household Pulse Survey (USA)
How often do you feel lonely?	1: Always; 2: Often; 3: Sometimes; 4: Rarely; 5: Never	Canadian Social Survey - Well-being and Family Relationships Questionnaire + Shared Values and Trust Questionnaire (CAN)
During the last four weeks, how often did you feel lonely?	Never; almost never; sometimes; most of the time; always.	Social Welfare Survey (CHL)
In the last 7 days have you felt...select one or more options.	Worry or nervousness; tiredness; irritability; loneliness ; sadness; headache or stomachache; difficulties in sleeping; Accelerated heart beats despite not having realized no physical effort; That it was impossible for you to feel positive emotions; none of the above.	Social Pulse Survey (COL)
Please indicate for each of the statements which is closest to how you have feeling over the last two weeks: I have felt lonely.	All of the time; most of the time; more than half of the time; less than half of the time; some of the time; at no time.	European Quality of Life Survey (Europe)
Feeling lonely. The variable refers to the respondent's feeling. They should be asked about how many times they have felt lonely during the past 4 weeks.	All of the time; most of the time; some of the time; a little of the time; none of the time.	European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (2022, 2018 module) (Europe)
In the past 4 weeks, did you ever feel lonely?	All the time, some of the time, sometimes, rarely, never	Statistics on Resources and Living Conditions Survey (FRA)
UCLA Loneliness Scale: How often in the past 4 weeks have you felt that... you lack companionship; you are isolated from others; you are left out?	Never; rarely; sometimes; often; very often.	International Social Survey Programme (ISSP) -- Social network module (Global)
1. Do you ever feel lonely? 2. How long has this situation lasted?	1. Frequently; sometimes; seldom; never. 2. Less than 16 months; 6 months or more and less than 1 year;	Social Survey (ISR)

	1 year or more and less than 2 years; 2 years or more and less than 3 years.	
In the last 4 weeks, how much of the time have you felt lonely?	None of the time; a little of the time; some of the time; most of the time; all of the time.	New Zealand General Social Survey – Social Networks and Support Module (NZL)
In the last 4 weeks, how much of the time have you felt lonely?	None of the time; a little of the time; some of the time; most of the time; all of the time.	New Zealand General Social Survey (NZL)
Think about how you have been feeling for the past 7 days. To what extent were you... lonely?	0-10	Norway Quality of Life (NOR)
Below you will find various ailments and problems that people occasionally have. How much has each problem bothered you or bothered you during the last 14 days? ¹ feeling lonely	The answers have been given on a scale from 1-4 (Not bothered, a little, quite much or very much bothered).	Norway Quality of Life (NOR)

Table A A.4. Quality: Questions and answer options by category

A. Quality – Satisfaction with relationships		
Question	Answer options	Survey name
Do you worry that you don't spend enough time with your family or friends?	Yes / No	General Social Survey – Time Use (CAN)
Are you currently satisfied with the way you interact with <i>co-workers / strangers</i> ?	Satisfied; somewhat satisfied; can't say; somewhat unsatisfied; unsatisfied.	Basic Survey on Human Connection (JPN)
N.B. Separate question for each item in italics.		
Overall, how satisfied are you with your personal relationships, including with family, relatives, friends, neighbours, and work colleagues?	Very satisfied, slightly satisfied, moderately satisfied, slightly dissatisfied, dissatisfied	Social Survey (KOR)
How satisfied are you with your personal relationships?	0 means totally dissatisfied and 10 means totally satisfied.	Subjective Well-being Basic Survey (MEX)
How satisfied are you with your personal relationships?	0 means totally dissatisfied and 10 means totally satisfied.	National Survey of Self-reported Well-being (MEX)
How satisfied are you with your social life (friendships)?	0 means totally dissatisfied and 10 means totally satisfied.	National Survey of Self-reported Well-being (MEX)
How satisfied are you with your family life?	0 means totally dissatisfied and 10 means totally satisfied.	National Survey of Self-reported Well-being (MEX)
How satisfied are you with your affective (love) life?	0 means totally dissatisfied and 10 means totally satisfied.	National Survey of Self-reported Well-being (MEX)
Of the groups with whom you meet, which <i>do you enjoy the most / which do you enjoy the least</i> ?	Answer with name of group	National Survey of Self-reported Well-being (MEX)
N.B. Separate question for each item in italics.		
On a scale from 1 to 10, can you indicate to what extent you are satisfied with the following? (among others) <i>Your relationship with your partner / your social life / the neighbourhood you live in</i>	Scale 1-10: 1 represents completely dissatisfied and 10 represents completely satisfied.	Social Cohesion Survey (NLD)
N.B. Separate question for each item in italics.		
Are you satisfied with your relationships with your neighbours?	Very satisfied; satisfied; not so satisfied; not satisfied at all.	Social Survey (ISR)
How satisfied are you with the relationship with your friends and family?	On a 1 to 10 scale.	Statistics on Resources and Living Conditions Survey (FRA)
1. Overall, how satisfied are you with how often you communicate with your relatives?	1. Very satisfied; satisfied; neither satisfied nor dissatisfied; very dissatisfied.	Canada General Social Survey – Social Identity (CAN)
2. Are you dissatisfied because you communicate with your family members too often or not often enough?	2. Too often; not enough.	

In general, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with your relationship with family, friends, and other people you know?	Totally dissatisfied; dissatisfied; indifferent; satisfied; fully satisfied.	Social Welfare Survey (CHL)
How satisfied are you with your interpersonal relationships?	On a 1 to 10 scale.	Social Pulse Survey (COL)
Could you tell me if you spend as much time as you would like to in each area, or if you wish you could spend "less time" or "more time" in that activity? <i>Contact with family members living in this household or elsewhere; other social contact (not family).</i>	Spend less time; spend as much time as I currently do; spend more time.	European Quality of Life Survey (Europe)
N.B. Separate question for each item in italics.		
Satisfaction with relationships.	1 to 10 scale.	European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (2022, 2018, 2013 modules) (Europe)
How satisfied are you with the relationship with your friends and family?	1 to 10 scale.	Statistics on Resources and Living Conditions Survey (FRA)
In your life, what importance do you give to the following points? (among others) <i>Your family / your friends and relationships / associations and civic life</i>	Very important; somewhat important; medium importance; little importance; not important at all; does not know/not concerned	Statistics on Resources and Living Conditions Survey (FRA)
N.B. Separate question for each item in italics.		
In the city or area where you live, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the opportunities to meet people and make friends?	Satisfied; dissatisfied.	Gallup World Poll (Global)
1.Do your family put pressure on you about the way you live or organise your personal life? 2.Do you feel that your family/relatives/friends make too many demands on you? 3.How often in the past 4 weeks did any important person in your life act angry with you?	No, never; yes, but rarely; yes, sometimes; yes, often; yes, very often.	International Social Survey Programme (ISSP) -- Social network module (Global)
Are you satisfied with your relationships with family members?	Very satisfied; satisfied; not very satisfied; not satisfied at all.	Social Survey (ISR)
To what extent do you feel that your family members value you?	A great extent; some extent; not so much; not at all.	Social Survey (ISR)
Are you satisfied with your relations with your neighbours?	Very satisfied; satisfied; not so satisfied; not satisfied at all.	Social Survey (ISR)
Think about the last 12 months. Are you satisfied with the following aspects of your life? (among others) <i>Family relations</i>	Very; quite; slightly; not at all	Multipurpose Survey on Households (ITA)
Think about the last 12 months. Are you satisfied with the following aspects of your life? (among others) <i>Relations with friends</i>	Very; quite; slightly; not at all	Multipurpose Survey on Households (ITA)
How satisfied are you with your relationship with [CONTACT]?	Scale 0-10 (0: Not at all satisfied; 10: completely satisfied)	Family and Social Survey (ITA)
<i>Contact: Partner, mother/father of partner, child, grandchild, mother, father, brother, sister</i>		
How attentive do you feel others are to what happens to you?	1. They show a lot of attention and interest 2. They show enough attention and interest 3. Neither a little nor a lot 4. They show little attention and interest 5. They show no attention and interest	Family and Social Survey (ITA)
Thinking about last 12 months, how satisfied are you with your <i>family relationships relationship with friends</i> ?	Scale 0-10 (0: Not at all satisfied; 10: completely satisfied)	Family and Social Survey (ITA)
N.B. Separate question for each item in italics.		
In general, to what extent are you satisfied with your personal relationships, e.g., with your family, friends or colleagues, if 0 means "not at all satisfied" and 10 "completely satisfied"?	Scale 0-10 (0: Not at all satisfied; 10:completely satisfied), does not know, no answer	European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions – National survey (LUX)

To what extent are you satisfied with living alone if 0 means "not at all satisfied" and 10 "completely satisfied"??	Scale 0-10 (0: Not at all satisfied; 10:completely satisfied), does not know, no answer	European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions – National survey (LUX)
To what extent are you satisfied with living with other people in your household if 0 means "not at all satisfied" and 10 "completely satisfied"??	Scale 0-10 (0: Not at all satisfied; 10:completely satisfied), does not know, no answer	European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions – National survey (LUX)
How would you describe the amount of quality time you spend with your <i>partner / children / family / friends who help and support you?</i> N.B. Separate question for each item in italics.	Too much contact; about the right amount of contact; not enough contact.	New Zealand General Social Survey – Social Networks and Support Module (NZL)
How well do you get along with people in the household?	From 0 (extremely bad) to 10 (extremely well)	New Zealand General Social Survey – Social Networks and Support Module (NZL)
Satisfaction with amount of contact with family or relatives / friends who don't live with the respondent.	Too much contact; about the right amount of contact; not enough contact.	New Zealand General Social Survey (NZL)
Satisfaction with social relationships	Share of respondents are fairly or very satisfied with their social relationships (friends, family, neighbours and other people they know)	Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (GBR)
Are you satisfied with: <i>D. from your current situation</i> <i>E. from relationships with other people, incl with friends, friends?</i> <i>I. the way of spending your free time</i> <i>time?</i> N.B. Separate question for each item in italics.	Very dissatisfied / Dissatisfied / Neither satisfied, nor dissatisfied / Satisfied/ Very satisfied	Social Cohesion Survey (POL)

B. Quality – Emotions associated with social interactions

Question	Answer options	Survey name
Between [STARTTIME OF EPISODE] and [STOPTIME OF EPISODE] yesterday, you said you were doing [ACTIVITY]. You may choose any number to reflect how strongly you experienced this feeling during this time: <i>happy, tired, stressed, sad, pain, meaningful</i>	On a 0 to 6 scale.	American Time Use Survey – Well-being Module (USA)
Was this time pleasant or unpleasant?	On a scale from -3 to 3, with: -3 = very unpleasant, 0 = neutral, 3 = very pleasant)	Time Use Survey (AUS)
On a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 means "Very unpleasant" and 5 means "Very pleasant", how would you rate the activity you were doing?	1: 1 - Very unpleasant 2: 2 3: 3 4: 4 5: 5 - Very pleasant	General Social Survey -- Time Use (CAN)
When you are with other people, how often do you feel ashamed?	All the time, most of the time, sometimes, rarely, never, does not know, no answer	European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions – National survey (LUX)
When you are with other people, how often do you feel that they do not pay attention to you?	All the time, most of the time, sometimes, rarely, never, does not know, no answer	European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions – National survey (LUX)

Table A A.5. Community and societal connectedness: Questions and answer options by category

A. Community and societal connectedness – Communal connections

Question	Answer options	Survey name
Using this card, please say to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. I feel close to the people in my local area.	Agree strongly; agree; neither agree nor disagree; disagree; disagree strongly.	European Social Survey (Europe)
On a scale from 0 to 10, would you say that most of the time people try to help or that they care mostly about themselves?	Scale from 0 to 10 (0: care mostly about themselves; 10: try to help)	Statistics on Resources and Living Conditions Survey (FRA)
Are there people in your neighbourhood who cooperate to improve the neighbourhood?	Yes, to a large extent; yes, to a certain extent; not at all.	Social Survey (ISR)

B. Community and societal connectedness – Sense of belonging

Question	Answer options	Survey name
I feel like I belong at school	Strongly agree; agree; disagree; strongly disagree	OECD Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) Survey (Global)
I feel like an outsider (or left out of things) at school	Strongly agree; agree; disagree; strongly disagree	OECD Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) Survey (Global)
To what extent do you agree or disagree with the statement 'I feel like I belong to this neighbourhood'?	Strongly agree, agree, neither agree or disagree, disagree, strongly disagree	Community Life Survey (GBR)
To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? I feel left out of society.	Strongly agree; agree; neither agree nor disagree; disagree; strongly disagree.	Living, Working and Covid-19 Survey (Europe)
In your opinion, how well do we communicate between the following groups in our society? 1. <i>Family interactions</i> ; 2. <i>Colleagues</i> ; 3. <i>Neighbours</i> ; 4. <i>intergenerational communication</i>	Nothing is happening at all; not much is being done; some progress is being made; it's going very well	Social Integration Survey (KOR)
N.B. Separate question for each item in italics.		
How satisfied are you with your neighbourhood?	0 means totally dissatisfied and 10 means totally satisfied.	Subjective Well-being Basic Survey (MEX)
How satisfied are you with your neighbourhood?	0 means totally dissatisfied and 10 means totally satisfied.	National Survey of Self-reported Well-being (MEX)
How many of your neighbours do you know by name?	None; 1; 2; 3; 4; 5; more than 5	National Survey of Self-reported Well-being (MEX)
To what extent do you consider it important or unimportant to engage with another person?	1. Very important; 2. Important; 3. Neither important nor unimportant; 4. Not very important; 5. Not at all important	Social Cohesion Survey (NLD)
To what extent do you consider it important or unimportant to engage with society?	1. Very important; 2. Important; 3. Neither important nor unimportant; 4. Not very important; 5. Not at all important	Social Cohesion Survey (NLD)
Whether adults feel like they belong to their immediate neighbourhood.		Community Life Survey (GBR)
How would you describe your sense of belonging to your local community?	1: Very strong; 2: Somewhat strong; 3: Somewhat weak; 4: Very weak; 5: No opinion	Canadian Social Survey - Well-being and Family Relationships Questionnaire + Shared

		Values and Trust Questionnaire (CAN)
How would you describe your sense of belonging to Canada?	1: Very strong; 2: Somewhat strong; 3: Somewhat weak; 4: Very weak; 5: No opinion	Canadian Social Survey - Well-being and Family Relationships Questionnaire + Shared Values and Trust Questionnaire (CAN)
When you are with other people, how often do you feel excluded, that you are not part of the group?	All the time, most of the time, sometimes, rarely, never, does not know, no answer	European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions – National survey (LUX)
How would you describe your sense of belonging to the following? <i>to your local community {in Canada}; to your town or city {in Canada}; to your province {in Canada}; to Canada; to your country of origin; to people with the same ethnic or cultural background as you; to people with the same religion as you; to people who speak the same first language as you; to the online communities that you are most active in.</i>	Very strong; somewhat strong; somewhat weak; very weak; no opinion.	General Social Survey – Social Identity (CAN)
N.B. Separate question for each item in italics.		
How emotionally attached do you feel to your <i>country / Europe / any particular religion or denomination?</i>	Please choose a number from 0 to 10, where 0 means not at all emotionally attached and 10 means very emotionally attached.	European Social Survey (Europe)
N.B. Separate question for each item in italics.		
To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? I feel left out of society.	Strongly agree; agree; neither agree nor disagree; disagree; strongly disagree.	European Quality of Life Survey (Europe)
Feeling left out. The variable refers to the respondent's opinion about the degree to which they feel left out of society.	Strongly agree, agree, neither agree or disagree, disagree, strongly disagree, don't know.	European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (2022. 2018 modules) (Europe)
People have different views about themselves and how they relate to the world. Using this card, would you tell me how close do you feel to: <i>your village, town or city; your county, region, district; your country; your continent; world.</i>	Very close; close; not very close; not close at all.	World Values Survey (Global)
N.B. Separate question for each item in italics.		
Do you feel strongly connected to: A. <i>Poland?</i> B. <i>European Union?</i> C. <i>the town where you live?</i> D. <i>people from the neighborhood and area where you live?</i> E. <i>parish, congregation, local church, own religious community?</i>	1. Yes, very strongly connected to 2. Yes, rather related 3. No, rather unrelated 4. No, completely unrelated 5. I don't know, it's hard to say	Social Cohesion Survey (POL)
N.B. Separate question for each item in italics.		

C. Community and societal connectedness – Social acceptance and perceived discrimination

Question	Answer options	Survey name
1. In the last year, have you had any problems that have affected you or your community related to discrimination? 2. Did you feel discriminated for one of the following reasons? Gender; age; disability; health status; ethnic origin; physical appearance; immigration status; socioeconomic condition; residence area; religion; civil state; sexual orientation or gender identity; political opinion; cultural identity and belonging; other reasons.	1. Yes; no. 2. Yes; no.	Political Culture Survey (COL)

Of the following people who would you not like to have as a neighbour? Select one or more options.	People with disabilities; LGBTI; people from a different race or ethnicity than yours; people in poverty; victims of conflict; veterans; former members of the paramilitary service; drug addicts; people with HIV/AIDS; people from a different religion; immigrants or foreign workers; none of the above.	Political Culture Survey (COL)
1. During the past five years, do you feel you have been submitted to unequal or discriminatory treatment? 2. In your opinion, it was probably because of...	1. Often; sometimes; never; refusal to answer; don't know. 2. Your age; your sex; your state of health or disability; your skin colour; your origins or nationality; the place where you live, your neighbourhood's reputation; your accent, your way of speaking; your family situation (unmarried, divorced, young children); your sexual orientation; your religion; your way of dressing; other.	Trajectories and Origins Survey (FRA)
Compared to men, do you think that in France women are subject to unequal or discriminatory treatment?	Often; sometimes; never.	Trajectories and Origins Survey (FRA)
Do you think that in France certain persons are subject to unequal or discriminatory treatment because of their origins or skin colour?	Often; sometimes; never.	Trajectories and Origins Survey (FRA)
1. In your life, have you ever been the target of insult or of racist terms or attitudes in France? 2. Where did this happen last time? 3. Did this happen in the last 12 months?	1. Yes; no. 2. At work; at the university; at school: in a store; on the street; in public transportation; in a hospital; in a bank; in an administrative office. 3. Yes; no.	Trajectories and Origins Survey (FRA)
To what extent can you accept the following people in a relationship? 1. <i>People with disabilities</i> ; 2. <i>Children from grandparent/single parent households, etc.</i> ; 3. <i>foreign immigrants/workers</i> ; 4. <i>ex-offenders</i> ; 5. <i>sexual minorities</i> ; 6. <i>North Korean defectors</i> ; 7. <i>People with different political affiliations to you</i> ; 8. <i>political extremists</i> ; 9. <i>People with lower wealth, income, education, etc. than you</i> ; 10. <i>Someone who has more wealth, income, education, etc. than you</i> N.B. Separate question for each item in italics.	1. Unacceptable; 2. As a neighbour; 3. As a boss; 4. As a best friend; 5. As a spouse	Social Integration Survey (KOR)
How do you feel about accepting the following people as your child's spouse? 1. <i>People with disabilities</i> ; 2. <i>Children from grandparent/single parent households, etc.</i> ; 3. <i>foreign immigrants/workers</i> ; 4. <i>ex-offenders</i> ; 5. <i>sexual minorities</i> ; 6. <i>North Korean defectors</i> ; 7. <i>People with different political affiliations to you</i> ; 8. <i>political extremists</i> ; 9. <i>People with lower wealth, income, education, etc. than you</i> ; 10. <i>Someone who has more wealth, income, education, etc. than you</i> N.B. Separate question for each item in italics.	Strongly disagree; disagree; neither agree nor disagree; somewhat agree; strongly agree	Social Integration Survey (KOR)
Were you ever discriminated against or looked down upon because of... 1. <i>your skin tone</i> ? 2. <i>the way you speak</i> ? 3. <i>your weight or height</i> ? 4. <i>the way you dressed or appearance (tattoos)</i> 5. <i>your social class</i> ? 6. <i>where you live</i> ? 7. <i>your religious beliefs</i> ? 8. <i>being a woman or a man (unsure about translation here)</i> 9. <i>your age</i> ? 10. <i>your sexual preference</i> ? 11. <i>your ethnic origin (Indigenous, Afro-Mexican)</i> ? 12. <i>Because of any physical, mental or emotional difficulties (disabilities)</i> ? 13. <i>for having an illness</i> ? 14. <i>your political views</i> ? 15. <i>for being a foreigner</i> ? 16. <i>for any other reason (specify)</i> ? N.B. Separate question for each item in italics.	Yes; no.	National Survey of Self-reported Well-being (MEX)
In the last 12 months, did you experience discrimination on the basis of 1. <i>your skin tone</i> ? 2. <i>the way you speak</i> ? 3. <i>your weight or height</i> ? 4. <i>the way you dressed or appearance (tattoos)</i> 5. <i>your social class</i> ? 6. <i>where you live</i> ? 7. <i>your religious beliefs</i> ? 8. <i>being a woman or a man (unsure about translation here)</i> 9. <i>your age</i> ? 10. <i>your sexual preference</i> ? 11. <i>your ethnic origin (Indigenous, Afro-Mexican)</i> ? 12. <i>Because of any physical, mental or emotional difficulties (disabilities)</i> ? 13.	Yes; no.	National Survey of Self-reported Well-being (MEX)

<i>for having an illness? 14. your political views? 15. for being a foreigner? 16. for any other reason (specify)?</i>		
N.B. Separate question for each item in italics.		
To what extent do you agree or disagree that their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together?	Definitely agree; tend to agree; tend to disagree; definitely disagree.	Community Life Survey (GBR)
How important is it for you personally that you have opportunities to mix with people from different backgrounds?	1. Very important 2. Important 3. Neither important nor unimportant 4. Not very important 5. Not at all important	Community Life Survey (GBR)
1. In the last 12 months, do you feel that you have experienced discrimination or have been treated unfairly by others? 2. Thinking about your most recent experience of discrimination in Australia, do you think it was because of any of the following?	1. Yes; no; don't know. 2. Your ethnic/cultural background or appearance; your gender; your age; your sexual orientation; a disability or health issue; your marital/family status; your political/religious beliefs; your occupation; other (please specify); don't know.	General Social Survey (AUS)
In the past 12 months, in which places or situations do you feel that you have experienced discrimination or have been treated unfairly?	At home; at work; in public; at school or university; online; applying for work/jobs; applying for or keeping a flat/apartment or housing of any kind; dealing with the justice system; dealing with people involved in healthcare; other (please specify).	General Social Survey (AUS)
In the 5 years before the Covid-19 pandemic, have you experienced discrimination or been treated unfairly by others in Canada because of any of the following?	Your age; your ethnicity or culture; your race or colour; your religion; your language; your physical appearance (include discrimination on the basis of weight, height, hair style or colour, clothing, jewellery, tattoos and other physical characteristics); your sexual orientation; some other reason (please specify); did not experience discrimination.	General Social Survey – Social Identity (CAN)
In the past 5 years, have you experienced discrimination or been treated unfairly by others in Canada because of any of the following?	01: Your Indigenous identity; 02: Your ethnicity or culture; 03: Your race or skin colour; 04: Your religion; 05: Your language; 06: Your accent; 07: Your physical appearance (Include discrimination on the basis of weight, height, hair style or colour, clothing, jewelry, tattoos and other physical characteristics. Exclude discrimination on the basis of skin colour.); 08: Your sex (Sex refers to sex assigned at birth.); 09: Your sexual orientation (e.g., heterosexual, lesbian, gay, bisexual); 10: Your gender identity or expression (Include gender diverse identities such as two-spirit or nonbinary.); 11: Your age; 12: A physical or mental disability; 13: Some other reason; 14: Did not experience discrimination	Canadian Social Survey - Well-being and Family Relationships Questionnaire + Shared Values and Trust Questionnaire (CAN)
In what types of situations have you experienced discrimination in Canada in the past 5 years?	01: In a store, bank or restaurant 02: When attending school or classes 03: On the Internet, including social media platforms 04: At work or when applying for a job or promotion 05: When seeking or applying for housing (e.g., buying or renting) 06: When interacting with the police 07: When interacting with the courts 08: When crossing the border into Canada (Exclude incidents of discrimination upon leaving Canada.) 09: While attending social gatherings or by or among friends or family 10: While using public areas, such as parks and sidewalks 11: While using public transit, such as buses, trains or taxis 12: When seeing a medical health professional or in other health care settings (Medical health professionals may include doctors, nurses, and physiotherapists. Health care settings may include at hospitals, clinics, and dental offices.) 13: Any other situation	Canadian Social Survey - Well-being and Family Relationships Questionnaire + Shared Values and Trust Questionnaire (CAN)
1. During the last year, to what extent have you felt abused or mistreated by others? 2. Where did you feel mistreated?	1. Yes; no. 2. Health Centre, at work, at an educational establishment, in public or municipal/ government services, in the street, in a business, within your family, other.	Social Welfare Survey (CHL)

3. For what reason do you think you were abused or mistreated	3. Being a man or woman; sexual orientation/identity/gender; social class; being a foreigner; age, belonging to an Indigenous or tribal people, for health or disability status.	
1. Would you describe yourself as being a member of a group that is discriminated against in this country? 2. On what grounds is your group discriminated?	1. Yes; no. 2. Colour or race; nationality; religion; language; ethnic group; age; gender; sexuality; disability; other (please specify).	European Social Survey (Europe)
To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? Gay men and lesbians should be free to live their own life as they wish; if a close family member was a gay man or a lesbian, I would feel ashamed; gay male and lesbian couples should have the same rights to adopt children as straight couples.	Agree strongly; agree; neither agree nor disagree; disagree; disagree strongly.	European Social Survey (Europe)
Please tell me how, in your opinion citizens of your country would feel about their children having Roma schoolmates.	Scale from 1 (totally uncomfortable) to 10 (totally comfortable)	Eurobarometer (2012 module) (Europe)
Please tell me whether you agree to the following statement: the Roma people are a group of people at risk of discrimination.	Totally agree; tend to agree; tend to disagree; or totally disagree.	Eurobarometer (2012 module) (Europe)
Please tell me whether you agree to the following statement: society could benefit from a better integration of the Roma.	Totally agree; tend to agree; tend to disagree; or totally disagree.	Eurobarometer (2012 module) (Europe)
For each of the following types of discrimination, could you please tell me whether, in your opinion, it is very widespread, fairly widespread, fairly rare or very rare to encounter discrimination on the basis of: <i>ethnic origin; sexual orientation (being gay, lesbian or bisexual); gender identity (being transgender or transsexual); religion or beliefs; disability; being over 55 years old.</i>	Very widespread; fairly widespread; fairly rare; very rare.	Eurobarometer (2012 module) (Europe)
N.B. Separate question for each item in italics.		
When a company wants to hire someone and has the choice between two candidates with equal skills and qualifications, which of the following criteria may, in your opinion, put one candidate at a disadvantage? (multiple answers possible)	The candidate's age, if he or she is over 55 years old; the candidate's look (manner of dress or presentation); the candidate's skin colour or ethnic origin; a disability; the candidate's physical appearance (size, weight, face, etc.); the candidate's way of speaking, his or her accent; the candidate's gender identity (being transgender or transsexual); the expression of a religious belief (e.g. wearing a visible religious symbol); the candidate's sexual orientation (being gay, lesbian or bisexual); the candidate's name; the candidate's age if he or she is under 30 years old; the candidate's address.	Eurobarometer (2012 module) (Europe)
How would you feel having a person from each of the following groups in the highest elected political positions? <i>A woman; a person with a disability; a person from a different religion than the majority of the population; a person from a different ethnic origin than the majority of the population; a person under 30 years old; a gay, lesbian or bisexual person; a person over 75 years old; a transgender or transsexual person.</i>	Scale from 1 (feel not at all comfortable) to 10 (feel totally comfortable)	Eurobarometer (2012 module) (Europe)
N.B. Separate question for each item in italics.		
To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? <i>Gay, lesbian or bisexual people should have the same rights as heterosexual people; there is nothing wrong in a sexual relationship between two persons of the same sex; same sex marriages should be allowed throughout Europe.</i>	Agree; disagree; don't know.	Eurobarometer (2015 module) (Europe)
N.B. Separate question for each item in italics.		
Please tell me whether you, personally, think each of the following is good thing or a bad thing. How about an immigrant becoming your neighbour?	Good thing; bad thing.	Gallup World Poll (Global)

Is the city or area where you live a good place or not a good place to live for: <i>gay or lesbian people; racial and ethnic minorities; immigrants from other countries?</i>	Good place; not a good place.	Gallup World Poll (Global)
N.B. Separate question for each item in italics.		
Could you please mention any that you would not like to have as neighbours? Select all that apply.	Drug addicts; people of a different race; people who have AIDS; immigrants/foreign workers; homosexuals; people of a different religion; heavy drinkers; unmarried couples living together; people who speak a different language.	World Values Survey (Global)
For each of the following statements I read out, can you tell me how much you agree with each: <i>on the whole, men make better political leaders than women do; a university education is more important for a boy than for a girl; men make better business executives than women do; [being a housewife is just as fulfilling as working for pay]; when jobs are scarce; men should have more right to a job than women; if a woman earns more money than her husband, it's almost certain to cause problems.</i>	Agree strongly; agree; disagree; disagree strongly.	World Values Survey (Global)
N.B. Separate question for each item in italics.		
Do you agree with the following statements? when jobs are scarce, employers should give priority to people of this country over immigrants.	Agree; disagree; neither agree nor disagree.	World Values Survey (Global)
Do you agree with the following statements? homosexual couples are as good parents as other couples.	Agree; disagree; neither agree nor disagree.	World Values Survey (Global)
Do you think people of different backgrounds get along well together in your area?	Yes; no.	Social Survey (ISR)
In the last twelve months, have you felt discrimination because of your: <i>age/ nationality / origin or ethnicity / religion or belief / gender / sexual orientation / disability (physical or mental) / skin colour.</i>	Yes; no.	Social Survey (ISR)
N.B. Separate question for each item in italics.		
In your opinion, does the <i>Israel Police / courts in Israel / national insurance institute / population authority / welfare services / your local government or municipality</i> relate equally to all citizens without regard to sex, age or sector?	Yes, to a great extent; yes, to some extent; not so much; not at all.	Social Survey (ISR)
N.B. Separate question for each item in italics.		
Would you be willing to have neighbours from the following populations: <i>people with mental impairment or retardation, autism, emotionally impaired, physical disability, in the process of withdrawal from drug or alcohol addiction, juvenile delinquents in the process of rehabilitation?</i>	Very willing; to some extent; not so willing; not at all.	Social Survey (ISR)
N.B. Separate question for each item in italics.		
In general, do you trust people who are not on the same level of religiosity as you?	Yes; no.	Social Survey (ISR)
If a close relative of yours were to marry a person from one of the following groups, would you accept it? <i>persons not of the same origin or ethnicity as yours; persons who are not of the same religion as you; persons who are not of the same level of religiosity as you; persons with disabilities.</i>	Yes; no.	Social Survey (ISR)
N.B. Separate question for each item in italics.		
How much is it important to you that in Italy: <i>men and women have equal rights and can access all jobs with the same time, if they perform the same duties; all people have the same rights regardless from the country of origin, by the colour of the skin and ethnicity; everyone can profess freely your own</i>	Very important; quite important; not very important; not at all.	Multipurpose Survey on Households (ITA)

<i>religion; all people have the same rights regardless sexual orientation.</i>		
N.B. Separate question for each item in italics.		
A same-sex couple in a civil union must by law have the same rights as a married couple (inheritance rights, pension reversibility, assistance in the event of illness, etc.)	1. Strongly agree 2. Agree 3. Neither agree nor disagree 4. Against 5. Strongly disagree	Family and Social Survey (ITA)
Have you ever had to move to another area or another municipality to be able to live your homosexuality or bisexuality more peacefully?	Yes, in another area Yes, in another Italian city Yes, abroad No	Survey on Discrimination (ITA)
<i>In your life, have you ever been discriminated against by your neighbors; for example, did they show hostility towards her or in any case made her understand that they did not accept her well, just because they knew or thought she was homosexual or bisexual?</i>	Yes / No	Survey on Discrimination (ITA)
<i>In the course of your life, when you went to social and health services, have you ever been discriminated against, that is, treated less well than others, by a doctor, a nurse or by the help desk staff, just because they knew or thought you were homosexual or bisexual?</i>		
<i>In the course of your life, have you ever been discriminated against, that is, treated less well than others, in public places and offices, shops, means of transport, just because they knew or thought you were homosexual or bisexual?</i>		
N.B. Separate question for each item in italics.		
In your opinion, in Italy, are women generally discriminated against, that is, treated less well than men?	Yes, a lot Yes, quite a lot Yes, a little No, not at all	Survey on Discrimination (ITA)
If you compare the situation today with that of 5 years ago in Italy, would you say that women today are more discriminated against or less discriminated against?	More discriminated against Less discriminated against There is no difference Don't know	Survey on Discrimination (ITA)
When you were at school or university, did you ever experience discrimination, that is, being treated less well than others, by classmates/university colleagues, teachers or non-teaching staff?	Yes / No	Survey on Discrimination (ITA)
Can you tell me who discriminated against you?	From teachers/lecturers / parents of classmates / the educational coordinator/principal / other school/university staff (janitors, administrative staff, etc.)	
What happened? What did they do to you?	Has been disadvantaged in exams/interrogations / Has been marginalized, isolated, kept aside / Has been offended, teased, treated badly, ridiculed / Has been beaten, physically abused / Other (specify)	
Thinking about the last time this happened to you, what characteristics of yours do you think you were discriminated against for ...	A - Because of health problems, disability, etc.? B - Because he came from a family different from the families of most of his classmates (for example: richer/poorer)? C - Because of a pregnancy or because he had family members to take care of? D - Because he was (movable text) male/female?	

	<p>E - Because he was younger, smaller than the others? F - Because he was bigger than the others? G - Because (movable text) of being a foreigner/of his foreign origins? H - Because of his religious beliefs? I - Because of his political ideas or trade union activity? L - Because of his external appearance? M - Because of his region of origin? N - Because he is homosexual, bisexual, transsexual? READ: "You are not obligated to answer this specific question, however your answers are very important because they will help us understand the problems and experiences of citizens" O - Because you did not have the right knowledge/the right interpersonal relationships</p>	
<p>How much do you agree with the following statements?</p> <p><i>The presence of immigrants is positive because it allows comparison with other cultures.</i> <i>The increase in immigrants favors the spread of terrorism and crime.</i> <i>Immigrants are necessary to do the work that Italians do not want to do.</i> <i>Italy belongs to the Italians and there is no room for immigrants. Immigrants take away jobs from Italians.</i> <i>Immigrants who do not have Italian citizenship but who have been living in Italy for several years should have the right to vote in municipal elections.</i> <i>Immigrants who do not have Italian citizenship but who have been living in Italy for several years should have the right to vote in municipal elections.</i> <i>In the allocation of public housing, given equal requirements, immigrants should be placed in the ranking after Italians.</i></p> <p>N.B. Separate question for each item in italics.</p>	<p>Very much Quite a bit A little Not at all in agreement?</p>	<p>Survey on Discrimination (ITA)</p>
<p>Do you think that, given the same skills and qualifications, an immigrant in Italy has the same chances, less chances or more chances than an Italian to get a promotion at work?</p> <p>Do you think that, given the same economic availability, an immigrant in Italy has the same chances, less chances or more chances than an Italian to find a house to rent?</p>	<p>Same chances Less chances More chances Don't know</p>	<p>Survey on Discrimination (ITA)</p>
<p>1. In the last 12 months have you been discriminated against? 2. Why do you think you were discriminated against? 3. In which situations were you in when you were discriminated against?</p>	<p>1. Yes; no. 2. Age; skin colour; way of dress or appearance; race or ethnic group; accent or language spoken; gender; sexual orientation; religious beliefs; disability or health issues; any other reason. 3. In a shop or a restaurant; on the street; seeking medical care; dealing with the police; trying to get a job; at work; trying to rent housing; at school; other (please state).</p>	<p>New Zealand General Social Survey (NZL)</p>
<p>People who answered affirmatively that they have experienced discrimination during the race of the last 12 months due to one or more of the following reasons: <i>age, gender, health problems/illness/injury, disability, skin colour, ethnic background, religion/view of life, political attitudes, sexual identity, uncertain reason.</i></p> <p>N.B. Separate question for each item in italics.</p>	<p>Yes / no</p>	<p>Norway Quality of Life (NOR)</p>
<p>In your opinion, currently in Poland, belonging to the following groups is a reason for worse treatment (discrimination): A. <i>people with disabilities</i> B. <i>people over 65 years of age</i> C. <i>persons under 25 years of age</i></p>	<p>Definitely yes / Somewhat yes / Not so much / Definitely not / It's difficult to say</p>	<p>Social Cohesion Survey (POL)</p>

<p><i>D. women</i> <i>E. men</i> <i>F. homosexual and bisexual people, transsexual</i> <i>G. Catholics</i> <i>H. people of a religion other than Catholic</i> <i>I. non-believers, atheists</i> <i>J. inhabitants of villages and small towns</i> <i>K. residents of the so-called bad neighborhoods</i> <i>L. people with poor financial situation</i> <i>M. people with low social status</i> <i>-vocational (low level of education, low professional qualifications)</i> <i>N. homeless people</i> <i>O. people of color</i> <i>P. people belonging to the group national or ethnic other than Poland</i></p> <p>N.B. Separate question for each item in italics.</p>		
<p>Have you have directly witnessed discrimination in Poland against the following groups (e.g. through offensive comments, beatings, bad treatment, etc.) in the past 12 months?</p> <p><i>A. people with disabilities</i> <i>B. people over 65 years of age</i> <i>C. persons under 25 years of age</i> <i>D. women</i> <i>E. men</i> <i>F. homosexual, bisexual, transsexual people 1 2 3 I55E</i> <i>G. Catholics</i> <i>H. people of a religion other than Catholics</i> <i>I. non-believers, atheists</i> <i>J. inhabitants of villages and small towns</i> <i>K. residents of the so-called bad neighborhoods</i> <i>L. people with a poor financial situation</i> <i>M. people with low socio-professional status (low level education, low professional qualifications)</i> <i>N. homeless</i> <i>O. people of different skin color</i> <i>P. people belonging to a national or ethnic group other than Polish</i></p> <p>N.B. Separate question for each item in italics.</p>	Yes / No / Difficult to say	Social Cohesion Survey (POL)
<p>Would you consider yourself to be a member of a group of people who, for whatever reason, is treated worse in Poland (discriminated against)?</p>	Yes / No	Social Cohesion Survey (POL)
<p>If you have been discriminated against, please indicate in what situation did it happen (Please consider the last 12 months):</p> <p><i>A. in connection with your work</i> <i>B. in connection with the education of you and your children and siblings (e.g. at school, at university, in kindergarten, on courses)</i> <i>C. when dealing with matters in offices (e.g. city/municipality, ZUS), in court, at the police station, at a social welfare center.</i> <i>D. serves health purposes during visits to the doctor/taking care of matters at the facility</i> <i>E. in public transport, on the street, in the park</i> <i>F. in other public places (e.g. in a bank, in a store, in a cinema, in a restaurant)</i> <i>G. at your place of residence (in the building where Mr./Ms lives or his immediate vicinity)</i></p>	Yes / No	Social Cohesion Survey (POL)

<p><i>H. in your family, among friends</i> <i>I. in another situation</i></p>		
<p>N.B. Separate question for each item in italics.</p>		
<p>These next questions are about times and places where you were treated unfairly. In your day-to-day life how often have any of the following things happened to you? You are treated with less courtesy or respect than other people. Would you say at least once a week, a few times a month, a few times a year, less than once a year, or never?</p>	<p>At least once a week / A few times a month / A few times a year / Less than once a year / Never / Refused / Don't know</p>	<p>National Health Interview Survey (USA)</p>
<p>Would you say this happens at least once a week, a few times a month, a few times a year, less than once a year, or never?</p>	<p>At least once a week / A few times a month / A few times a year / Less than once a year / Never / Refused / Don't know</p>	<p>National Health Interview Survey (USA)</p>
<p><i>Compared to other people, you receive poorer service at restaurants or stores.</i> <i>People act as if they think you are not smart.</i> <i>People act as if they are afraid of you.</i> <i>You are threatened or harassed.</i></p>		
<p>N.B. Separate question for each item in italics.</p>		
<p>Would you say this happens at least once a week, a few times a month, a few times a year, less than once a year, or never?</p>	<p>At least once a week / A few times a month / A few times a year / Less than once a year / Never / Refused / Don't know</p>	<p>National Health Interview Survey (USA)</p>
<p><i>In your day-to-day life, how often do you try to prepare for possible insults from other people before leaving home?</i> <i>Feel that you always have to be very careful about your appearance to get good service or avoid being harassed?</i> <i>Carefully watch what you say and how you say it?</i> <i>Try to avoid certain social situations and places?</i></p>		
<p>N.B. Separate question for each item in italics.</p>		

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